Date : Nov 2, 2026 G.C

Vacancy Announcement for

Research Fellow in Economics and Financing of Food Systems Transformation Policy in Africa

Policy Studies Institute (PSI) – ANH-ARC

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1. Position Summary

Job Title: Research Fellow in Economics and Financing of Food Systems in Africa
Programme: African Regional Collaborative for Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH-ARC), under the ANH Academy Science–Policy Platform
Thematic Area: Economics and Financing of Food Systems Transformation Policy
Host Institution: Policy Studies Institute
Reports To: Thematic Area Lead
Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Duration: 6 Months, with possibility of extension
Contract type: Project-based, requiring **50%**FTE

2. Background

ANH-ARC represents a regional collaboration between the Policy Studies Institute (PSI), the University of Ghana, and Stellenbosch University, operating under the ANH Academy Science–Policy Platform. The initiative generates, synthesizes, and translates high-quality evidence to drive food systems transformation across Africa. The programme is structured around three core thematic areas: (1) Food Environments, Diet Quality, and Health; (2) Economics and Financing of Food Systems Transformation Policy; and (3) Science–Policy Interfaces and Food System Governance.

Theme 2, led by PSI, focuses on generating and translating economic and policy-relevant evidence to inform the design, financing, and implementation of food system policies, regulatory frameworks, and investments that expand access to affordable and nutritious foods, with a strong emphasis on gender equity and climate resilience. Theme 2 consists of three work packages: (1) Economic Drivers and Incentives in Agri-Food System Value Chains; (2) Financing Food Systems Policies and Interventions; and (3) Food System Metrics for Monitoring Progress.

To support Work Package 1 and 2, ANH-ARC is recruiting a Research Fellow based at PSI, who will dedicate 50% of their time to ANH-ARC activities. The Researcher will help design, implement, analyze, and disseminate research for Work Package 1 and 2. WP1 examines why agricultural growth has not consistently improved diet quality, as nutrient-dense foods are often underproduced and underfunded compared to staple crops. It involves comprehensive analyses of value chains, markets, and incentive

structures that influence the production, distribution, pricing, and affordability of nutritious foods in Ethiopia, Ghana, and South Africa. WP2 covers the assessment of the food systems financing landscape; food systems financing needs and gaps; financing instruments and developing an innovative financing design.

In addition to their primary role under Theme 2, the Researcher will provide technical support to a related project under Theme 1, jointly led by the University of Ghana and PSI. This project examines how the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Kampala Declaration/CAADP 2026–2035, and WHO "Best Buys" guidance can be leveraged to increase demand for affordable, nutritious, and sustainable diets. The research applies partial and general equilibrium trade models, price-transmission and welfare analyses, and environmental footprint profiling to identify affordable, nutritious, and low-emissions "triple-win" foods and to assess their distributional and gender-specific impacts.

Due to shared methodological needs, especially for advanced Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modeling, the Researcher will serve as a technical modeling resource for both work packages. They will contribute to the development, calibration, implementation, and interpretation of CGE and related economic models, and support ANH-ARC's broader research, publication, and policy engagement goals.

3. Scope of Work / Key Responsibilities

The Research Fellow will contribute to the following duties and responsibilities.

A. Value Chain Performance and Structural Bottlenecks

1. Develop and apply research methods to evaluate the performance, structure, and efficiency of selected nutrient-dense food value chains, and identify key structural and market bottlenecks.
2. Support the development and standardization of data collection tools and analytical frameworks for comparative value chain analysis across countries and food groups.
3. Analyze value chain structure, performance, and constraints affecting the production, processing, distribution, pricing, and affordability of prioritized nutrient-dense foods in the focus countries.
4. Assess investment constraints for the private sector and SMEs, including financial, regulatory, infrastructure, market, and institutional barriers that affect the production, processing, and trade of nutritious foods.
5. Evaluate gender and climate aspects of value chains, including gender-differentiated participation, access to resources, returns, exposure to climate risks, and resilience to climate variability and shocks.
6. Conduct comparative analyses of value chain performance and identify opportunities to improve the availability, affordability, and market access of nutrient-dense foods across the focus countries and food groups.

B. Economic Incentives, Markets, and Food Affordability

1. Develop analytical approaches to examine how economic incentives, market structures, and policy measures affect the production, processing, distribution, pricing, and consumption of nutrient-dense foods.
2. Lead the compilation, harmonization, and documentation of secondary datasets, including food prices, household income and expenditure, trade, tariffs, taxes, subsidies, and other relevant policy and market data.

3. Analyze price formation, market integration, concentration, and power, and assess their implications for nutrient-dense food prices, affordability, diet quality, and nutrition outcomes.
4. Assess economic incentives and policy frameworks, including subsidies, taxes, tariffs, and other price-related policies, and evaluate their effects on nutrient-dense food markets and value chains.
5. Examine how food prices and household incomes interact to determine access to nutritious diets, including differences across income groups and genders.

C. Public Budget and Expenditure Efficiency Analysis

1. Compare public resource allocations with relevant outputs and outcomes, subject to data availability, and identify areas of expenditure inefficiency and potential resource leakage.
2. Apply appropriate quantitative techniques, including a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model where appropriate to the research question in prioritizing public investments.
3. Prepare evidence-based recommendations for improving expenditure efficiency.

D. Policy Modeling and Capacity Building

1. Lead the application of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models and related tools to assess policy and value chain reform scenarios, evaluating their economy-wide, sectoral, distributional, and welfare impacts.
2. Provide CGE and general equilibrium trade modeling expertise to PSI's work under Theme 1, including analysis using partial and general equilibrium trade models, price-transmission models, welfare analysis, and related methods.
3. Help identify and assess policy scenarios that enhance the affordability, availability, and sustainability of nutrient-dense foods, considering gender and climate implications.
4. Support technical capacity building and provide mentorship to policymakers in CGE and related economic modeling approaches.

E. Financing Scenario and Model Development

1. Contribute to the development and assessment of alternative financing scenarios.
2. Develop public-led, private-led, and blended financing scenarios, as appropriate to the analytical framework.
3. Analyze alternative subsidies and expenditure allocation scenarios.
4. Assess scenarios involving increased investments in nutrition and climate resilience.
5. Document assumptions, parameters, analytical methods, and limitations of each scenario

F. Research Outputs, Dissemination, and Coordination

1. Co-author research outputs, including reports, working papers, peer-reviewed articles, policy briefs, and other knowledge products, and translate findings into actionable policy recommendations.
2. Present research findings at academic conferences, seminars, policy dialogues, workshops, and other relevant national and international forums.
3. Collaborate with researchers across ANH-ARC and support coordination of research activities, joint outputs, and delivery of agreed milestones.

4. Perform other research-related duties as assigned by the Principal Investigator or Work Package Lead.

4. Required Qualifications

- Master's or PhD in Economics, Applied Economics, Agricultural Economics, Development Economics, Public Finance, Policy Analysis or a closely related field.
- At least 10 years of proven experience for candidates with a Master's degree, or 5 years for candidates with a PhD, in economic modelling, empirical research, and policy analysis, with demonstrated ability to apply quantitative methods to policy-relevant research.
- Proven research experience in value chain analysis, or agricultural and food policy analysis, preferably within multi-country contexts.
- Proven knowledge and practical skills in Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling, including experience in constructing, calibrating, or applying CGE models to address policy questions.
- Advanced quantitative and econometric skills (such as proficiency in Stata, R, GAMS or Python)
- Demonstrated experience in designing and implementing qualitative research, preferably with a focus on agri-food system and value chain analysis.
- Demonstrated strong academic and policy-oriented writing skills, with a proven record of peer-reviewed publications on value chain analysis and applications of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models.
- Ability to work independently within a multi-institutional, multi-country consortium

5. Desirable Qualifications

- Experience integrating gender and climate resilience analysis into value chain or economic research.
- Experience engaging with government ministries (agriculture, trade, health) or regional bodies on policy matters.
- Prior experience with the Policy Studies Institute.
- Experience in capacity building or mentoring junior researchers and policymakers.
- Experience in environmental or footprint profiling, or carbon-nutrition trade-off analysis.

6. How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. A cover letter (maximum 2 pages) describing your relevant experience and suitability for the project.
2. Curriculum Vitae, including a list of publications.
3. Names and contact details of at least two references.

4. A relevant writing sample, such as a published article or working paper on value chains, applications of Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models, market structure, or agricultural or food policy.

Interested individuals who fulfill the aforementioned requirements can apply for the job for 7 Working days' dates starting from the date of the post. Please submit your applications with copies of all supporting documents attached: via email at: "psihrmda @gmail.com" or Google form using the following link.

Google Form: https://forms.gle/rDwF2UqAFPV4As4t7 Or the Scan the QR Code Below