

Forestry and Climate Science Visiting Fellows Program 2023

Call for Application

Background

The Community Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass) Program of USAID Bangladesh and US Forest Service International Programs (USFS/IP) addresses natural resources management (NRM) challenges in Bangladesh. Compass's domains include increasing technical cooperation on forest and ecosystem management, strengthening the capacity of academic and research institutions in natural resource management and resilience, strengthening community capacity, promoting public participation, and establishing Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Compass emphasizes promoting the evidence-based global scientific-technical exchange of natural resource knowledge and skills to enhance the capacity of institutions and communities to manage natural resources and improve livelihoods through visiting fellows program, student exchange, webinar series, USFS/IP international seminars, and virtual participation in USFS online platforms, forums, and networks.

The College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA) of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is a leading USA-based research institution with academic excellence in forestry, natural resources conservation and management, and environmental sciences. The UNH also has state-of-the-art research facilities in both laboratory and field settings and extensive partnerships with regional USFS scientists and practitioners. Compass partnered with the UNH to deliver Forestry and Climate Science (FoCaS) programs consisting of professional exchanges, virtual programming, and graduate study at the UNH, aiming to increase NRM research and education capacity in Bangladesh.

Compass has partnership agreements with the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of Chittagong University (IFESCU), Khulna University (KU), Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU), Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) for strengthening the technical/research capacity and exchange programs. In addition, Compass closely works with the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD).

Compass and the UNH jointly designed the FoCaS programs to enhance the capacity of faculty members, professionals, and students and create opportunities for research collaborations and forestry education between Bangladesh and US-based institutions.



Program description

The Forestry and Climate Science Visiting Fellows Program 2023 (FoCaS-VEP) is for enhancing the teaching and research capacity of Bangladeshi research/teaching professionals. The focus is on teaching and research capacity building in the broader realm of NRM, covering climate change, forestry, wildlife conservation and management, watershed science and management, remote sensing, teaching pedagogy, and academic course design. The COLSA of UNH will host about six Fellows for approximately six weeks in June-July 2023. This is a highly competitive opportunity where one candidate from each of Compass’s partner universities and research institutions in Bangladesh will be selected based on merit. The Fellows will actively work on their individual research/project as well as group assignment(s) under the mentorship of the UNH faculty members. They will be matched with UNH Professors in tracks related to their area of expertise, role at their home university, and relevance to their follow-on projects. Prior to the in-person session, the paired Fellow will schedule regular virtual check-ins and identify specific skills that they will seek to develop during the visit period. They will spend at least 10% time in the USA for further developing follow-on activities. Upon return, the Fellows will continue pre-decided follow-on activities, and Compass-UNH will do regular check-ins.



The FoCaS-VEP will include visits to the UNH forestry and climate change-related initiatives, the USFS research stations, forest management institutions, National Parks Service. This program will enable the fellows to have a better understanding of the state-of-the-art NRM research activities, effective teaching methods and course curriculum, and opportunities for collaborations between Bangladesh and USA-based institutions. The Fellows will also get exposure to US history and culture. All expenses related to accommodation, air tickets, ground transportation, per diem, medical insurance, and visa fee will be covered by the program.

Duration

The University of New Hampshire (UNH), Durham, USA, will host the FoCaS-VEP 2023. The visit will be for approximately six (06) weeks in June-July 2023.

Deliverables

- The visiting fellows will be required to complete the following deliverables by the end of the program:
- Trip report [including an outline of the follow-on activity]
 - Plan and contribute to a FoCaS program webinar series upon return.

Eligibility Criteria

- Current faculty member of the IFESCU; Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, SUST; Forestry and Wood Technology Discipline, KU; Department of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, RMSTU; and Professional at BFRI and BFD
- Demonstrated accomplishment in the fields of Natural Resource Management
- Currently residing in the country
- Early to mid-career
- Innovative and eager to exchange ideas
- Able to work independently as well as in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team
- Committed to developing and/or expanding on an individual project in the workplace/community upon return
- Able to adjust to changing cultural settings and environments
- Be proficient in spoken and written English
- Able to participate in all components of the fellowship program

Application Instructions

- Submission of the application form [available here: <https://forms.gle/sQvDQaaF1U6VsM3x6j>]
- Official nomination/recommendation letter from the Head of the Department/Director/Chief Conservator of Forests
- Motivation letter [including, Why do you want to participate in this program? What do you hope to achieve from the visit? How will you put your new skills and knowledge to work]
- An updated Curriculum Vitae (max 3-page)
- A passport-size photo taken within the last three months.

Application Closing Date
31 January 2023 | 23:59 Bangladesh Standard Time (GMT+6)

For More Information

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