

## Terms of Reference (TOR)

### Summer Student Intern – Climate Action in Agrifood Systems

Organization: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)  
Duration: 3-5 months (Summer 2025, flexible starting July)  
Engagement Mode: Remote  
Program Framework: CGIAR Climate Action Science Program (CASP)

#### About ICARDA and the GeoAgro Unit

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is a non-profit international organization under the CGIAR system, dedicated to improving food security, natural resource management, and livelihoods in the world's dry areas. With research programs spanning agriculture, climate resilience, and natural resources, ICARDA delivers science-based innovations and policy support tailored to some of the most climate-vulnerable regions on the planet. ICARDA's GeoAgro Unit sits at the intersection of geospatial science, climate modeling, and data-driven decision-making for agriculture and food systems. The unit contributes strategically to the CGIAR Climate Action Science Program (CASP), with a focus on priority-setting, vulnerability assessment, locally led adaptation, climate finance, and digital innovations to advance equitable and impactful climate action in dryland agrifood systems. The main mode of operation at GeoAgro revolves around: [1] geoinformatics, [2] climate analytics, [3] systems modeling and [4] AI and data science, all of which are climate and digital actions of the CGIAR.

#### Purpose and Scope of the Internship

ICARDA is offering a paid summer internship for students (preferably graduate students) interested in contributing to global climate action efforts in the Food, Land, and Water Systems (FLWS), with a specific lens on the Global South and especially the non-tropical global drylands (e.g., Middle East, North Africa, Central and West Asia, Western India, and Western China). The internship will be conducted remotely, with flexibility for collaboration and periodic engagement with the GeoAgro team. The selected interns will remotely work on one (or more) of several priority topics under CASP and are expected to pursue either a policy-relevant literature synthesis or a small-scale research activity using publicly available datasets (e.g., climate, remote sensing, agricultural statistics). The focus will be on generating high-quality, well-structured knowledge products that can support evidence-based decision-making and potentially lead to a peer-reviewed publication. If this can be aligned with your main research work that's even better.

#### Thematic Focus Areas

Interns may select or propose a topic aligned with the following climate action domains. The scale of focus can be a community /landscape, specific country, a region or the Global South.

- **New Prioritization Needs for Effective Climate Action:** Exploring emerging priorities in climate action across biophysical and socioeconomic dimensions, including equity-centered approaches such as Just Transitions in FLWS in the Global South.
- **Digital Tools for Vulnerability Assessment and Risk Management:** Evaluating or demonstrating how geospatial and digital solutions can help assess climate vulnerability and manage climate risks in FLWS in the Global South.

- Locally Led Adaptation and National Climate Policy Linkages: Studying how community-driven adaptation efforts align (or conflict) with national adaptation plans and stakeholder frameworks.
- Low-Emission Transitions in Agrifood Systems: Analysing or mapping opportunities for mitigation, such as reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs), carbon sequestration in soils, use of solar technologies, or sustainable energy solutions for rural agriculture.
- Climate Finance and Policy for Scaling Climate Solutions: Reviewing how financing instruments (carbon credits, green funds, adaptation finance) and policy innovations can accelerate the uptake of climate solutions in vulnerable regions.

### Internship Deliverables and Timeline

The internship spans 3-5 months (based on activity), during which the selected intern will be expected to produce the following:

- Preliminary Literature Survey: Conduct an exploratory review of the topic area to refine the research direction and contextual scope (with a Global south focus).
- Synthesis Report or Paper Structure: Develop a detailed outline with clearly defined sections and subsections, to be reviewed with the ICARDA mentor team.
- Research Analysis and Content Development: Carry out either a detailed literature synthesis or a data-driven analysis using public datasets, depending on the research design.
- Draft Synthesis Report or Paper: Prepare a comprehensive draft that can serve as the basis for a journal submission or technical report, with the intern listed as the lead author.

### Application Process

Interested students are invited to submit the following materials: A brief motivation letter (max 1 page) outlining interest, preferred topic with research focus and research feasibility. An updated CV including writing samples (academic work, publications, etc.).

Please send your application materials to: [a.govind@cgiar.org](mailto:a.govind@cgiar.org)

Deadline for applications: July 10, 2025

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a brief interaction and further steps.