

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

Title: Research Assistant

Reports To: Research Fellow, BRLF

Duration: 2 Months (December 2025 – January 2026)

Location: Jharkhand (Dhanbad, Saraikela Kharsawan, Giridih), Mizoram (Champhai, Aizawl, Lunglei, Mamit, Saitual)

Nature of employment: Contractual for two months

Number of Vacancies: 10 in Mizoram & 6 in Jharkhand)

About the Organisation

The Ministry of Rural Development set up Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF), Government of India (GOI), as an independent organisation under the Societies Registration Act to facilitate civil society action in partnership with the State and central Governments to transform the livelihoods and lives of rural households, with an emphasis on women, particularly in the Central Indian Tribal Region.

BRLF is a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative. The Foundation is a partnership between the government, on the one hand, and private sector philanthropies, as well as public and private sector undertakings (under Corporate Social Responsibility). Major functions of BRLF are fostering strategic partnerships with state govt for improving program outcomes, providing financial grants to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to meet their human resource and institutional costs for up-scaling of proven interventions, investing in institutional strengthening of smaller CSOs, capacity building of professional human resources working at the grassroots, and to enable evidence-based insights into key policies and programs of the government concerning rural livelihoods and tribal development.

The BRLF research vertical is mandated to co-create the knowledge and data infrastructure to enable a greater understanding of the themes of tribal development and sustainable livelihoods in the country and facilitate policy dialogues and reforms through the publication of research reports, knowledge briefs, practice support notes, case studies and robust, dynamic databases on key livelihood indicators. The research vertical works closely with the program team on evaluation design and process studies to generate strategic policy inputs for enhanced programmatic relevance and performance. Additionally, to strengthen the institutional ecosystem and knowledge infrastructure in the sector, the BRLF research team invests in enhancing the capacities of CSO partners in developing a research orientation, co-create evidence-based / data-informed programmatic strategies with embedded systems to self-assess, evaluate, re-strategise and learn using collaboratively established practice benchmarks.

About the Project:

The Enabling sustainable livelihoods initiative in Mizoram and Jharkhand is part of BRLF's ongoing collaborative efforts to enable Sustainable livelihoods for rural communities, while integrating local wisdom, scientific knowledge, enhanced institutional capacities, and a strengthened ecosystem for robust agri-allied and NTFP value chains.

To build a foundational perspective on the emerging strengths and needs in rural areas of Mizoram,

BRLF, in collaboration with UNDP and Rural Development Department, is engaging into a livelihood planning study to bring forth varying contexts, needs, priorities and locally led livelihood models emerging from different geographies of the state. It shall enable a participatory deep dive into existing challenges in climate-resilient, sustainable livelihood development and emerging opportunities with locally grounded insights that can be leveraged to nurture context-specific, equitable, and sustainable value chains for scale.

Insights from the livelihood planning study shall identify sustainable livelihood strategies that embed inclusive development, just transition, and climate resilience in the state of Mizoram towards a net-zero future. Findings from this study shall inform collaborative initiatives for sustainable livelihood development interventions in Jharkhand and Mizoram.

Job Purpose:

This is a brilliant opportunity for young scholars to contribute to a unique 'Body of Knowledge' on tribal rural livelihoods and natural resource management. The position is for early-career researchers/students with sound quantitative and qualitative research skills in the domain of Rural livelihoods and Natural Resource Management (NRM). The research vertical at BRLF is unique and first-of-its-kind in the country, wherein applied research relevant to policy insights and formulation is being co-created with practitioners to support the strategic engagement of governments, funding organisations and CSOs actively pursuing narratives of equitable social change and transformation.

As a BRLF associate, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the study and an emerging knowledge infrastructure on tribal development and sustainable livelihoods in the two states. The primary role would include data collection, transcription of qualitative data and data cleaning of quantitative surveys. Findings from the research study shall lead to creation of knowledge resources for the policy inputs/reforms and practice support.

Early-career scholars interested in learning from field experiences, sustainability and equity principles and climate resilience practices applied in the rural development and livelihoods sector will find this opportunity exciting.

Scope of Work:

- Data collection in five districts of Mizoram, namely - Aizawl, Champhai, Lunglei, Mamit and Saitual and three districts of Jharkhand, namely - Dhanbad, Saraikela Kharsawan, and Giridih (Sample survey, e-PRA, FGDs and KIIs)
- Assist in conducting stakeholder consultations, meetings, and workshops with key stakeholders.
- Assist in GIS mapping and ecological modelling to quantify resource degradation trends

Qualifications and Experience:

- An M.Phil/ PhD student in Agriculture, Agri-business, Geography, Economics, Development Studies, Rural Management, Public Policy, Public Administration, Social Work, or any other related discipline from a reputed institution directly relevant to the scope of work.
- Proven ability to work with multi-disciplinary teams of highly qualified researchers.
- Excellent written and communication skills in English.
- Candidates recruited for Mizoram must have excellent knowledge of spoken and written Mizo
- Candidates recruited for Jharkhand must have excellent knowledge of spoken and written Hindi
- Proven advanced skills in Quantitative / Qualitative research methods and tools.

- The intern must have experience in conducting data collection using qualitative and quantitative CAPI tools.
- Must be proficient in data cleaning using MS Excel, and familiar with CAPI-based data collection platforms.
- Work independently and be organised to ensure that tasks are completed on time.
- Results orientation with attention to detail.
- Willingness to travel extensively.

The research assistant must be able to use a personal working smartphone and laptop to engage with the assignment. BRLF does not issue laptops/ mobile phones for Internship assignments.

Compensation: The remuneration (CTC) range is between 30,000 – 40,000 per month inclusive of all taxes.

Application Process: Eligible candidate interested in this position are requested to apply through [Link](#) For any queries about the advertised position, you can write to us at recruitment@brlf.in with a subject line “Application for Research Assistant (Jharkhand or Mizoram)”. Interested candidates must apply by 30th November 2025. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Recruitment for the position will be on a rolling basis.

BRLF reserves the right to close this recruitment as the position is filled from applications received. BRLF is an equal opportunity organisation without discrimination by virtue of religious belief, social class, caste, special ability, or gender.
