

Program Lead – Agroecology Living Lab

Organization: Bharatiya Vikas Trust (BVT)

Project Location: BVT - Manipal, Udupi, Karnataka

Position Type: Full-time and based out of BVT - Manipal

About the Organization & Context

Bharatiya Vikas Trust (BVT) is an open-source, not-for-profit organization based in Manipal. BVT strives to unlock the true potential of the most vulnerable communities particularly in rural areas through training and capacity building, knowledge sharing, and financial inclusion. The activities of the Trust are carried out through a resource centre established in Manipal. Direct operations of the Trust has spread all over Karnataka and in few other states of the country. With over 40 years of grassroots credibility and deep-rooted community trust, BVT is establishing an Agroecological Living Lab. This localized, end-user centric hub acts as a real-world, innovation and learning space. Rather than developing solutions in isolation, BVT aim to design, test, and adapt agroecological, Climate smart solutions that drive systemic transformation.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Lead the overall vision, strategy, and evolution of the Agroecology Living Lab.
- Develop long-term roadmaps for research, validation, demonstration, and scale.
- Identify emerging opportunities in agroecology, climate resilience and rural entrepreneurship.

Innovation & Validation

- Guide the design and validation of agroecological innovations and field experiments.
- Facilitate collaboration between farmers, researchers, technical experts, and institutions.

Ecosystem Building

- Build partnerships with universities, research organizations, government agencies, FPOs, financial institutions, and ecosystem actors.
- Position the BVTs Living Lab as a knowledge and innovation hub within the agriculture and Enterprise ecosystem.

Resource Mobilization

- Support fundraising efforts and strategic partnerships.
- Develop proposals, concept notes, and collaborative initiatives.
- Build pathways for long-term sustainability of the Living Lab.

Team Leadership

- Mentor and guide program teams.
 - Foster a culture of experimentation, learning, and systems thinking.
 - Support organizational capability development.
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Qualifications

- 12+ years of experience in Rural development programs, agriculture, livelihoods, climate resilience and innovation ecosystems.
- Master's degree in Social work, Rural development, Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Agribusiness, or related fields.
- Demonstrated experience leading multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- Strong understanding of agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and rural enterprise ecosystems.