

Project Assistant

Full-time position

Initial Base Location: Nanpara, Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh

Possible Relocation in Eastern UP or Western Bihar

100% Field Role; Frequent Travel Required in Field Locations

Reporting Line: Area Head



About Oorja

Oorja (www.oorjasolutions.org) is an award-winning social enterprise based in New Delhi. We are on a mission to empower 1 million farmers globally by 2030 with the agricultural solutions they need to sustainably increase their income and quality of life.

Oorja is a Farming-as-a-Service company working at the intersection of sustainable agriculture and renewable energy. Our focus is on powering beneficial appliances that help users to generate stable incomes, create jobs, and mitigate carbon emissions. Despite urgent need, around 90% of marginal farmers cannot afford to invest in solar technology for their farms. Oorja wants to close this gap. We finance decentralised solar energy systems for community use. Oorja sells irrigation, milling and cooling as affordable *services* on a pay-per-use basis to smallholder farmers, without any upfront cost to them. We operate in rural areas of northern India where farmers are currently reliant on polluting and expensive diesel motors for their energy needs.

Our core strengths are our inclusive, farmer-centric business model and a diverse and driven team with shared passion for sustainable development. Some of our investors and partners in this mission are:



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Role Background

As a Project Assistant, you will be based in Eastern UP or Western Bihar and travelling regularly among Oorja's prospective rural sites and interacting with farmers on a daily basis. This is a 100% field role and candidates with an agricultural or rural background originating from UP or Bihar will be preferred. You will focus on finding new sites for expanding our solar-powered irrigation, milling and agronomy advisory services. Your responsibilities be to conduct surveys, mobilise farmers, collect membership fees, negotiate land lease agreements, and assist with other aspects of business development and project implementation. You should own a motorcycle or scooty and have a valid driver's license. You will be joining a dynamic and international team working together to make a difference to farmers' income and well-being.

Key Duties

- Identify and select new villages and sites for new solar projects
- Conduct site selection surveys (through structured questionnaires) with farmers
- Organise farmer focus groups and mobilise them to sign up for Oorja's services
- Collect membership fees and issue receipts to farmers
- Collect and digitise customer data
- Negotiate, execute and notarise land lease agreements

Roles and Responsibilities

The Project Assistant's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identify promising sites for new projects and provision of agri-energy services including "Oonnati" irrigation and "Oojjwal" milling services
- Handle incoming farmer calls and queries via phone; keep digital records of inbound requests to generate leads for new project sites
- Represent the company at current and future project sites; actively mobilise new customers to sign up for Oorja services; conduct door to door campaigns and organise focus group meetings to inform customers of service benefits and convince them to use Oorja's services
- Distribute or display promotional and marketing materials
- Site selection surveys: conduct focus group and individual demand assessment surveys with farmers using standardised surveys; enter data on a digital platform (KoboToolbox) using a smartphone or tablet
- Form groups of interested farmers; collect membership and subscriber fees from interested farmers; collect information from new customers to enter into customer roster
- Negotiate, execute and notarise land lease agreements on stamp paper
- Complete the process for new customer sign-up; maintain customer records in Excel and CRM
- Coordinate with other members of the Business Development and Engineering teams to verify technical feasibility of sites
- Digitalise project data, documentation, transactions and payment collections data
- Impact surveys: collect baseline and periodic impact data using standardised surveys
- Provide progress reports to supervisor; participate actively in daily and weekly team meetings
- Provide the Management with insights regarding customers, challenges faced during operations and opportunities to improve business development and customer/land acquisition processes
- Support with any other operational tasks as required by supervisor

Qualifications & Skills

- At least 6 months' relevant field experience working with customers in rural locations
- Bachelor's degree in a relevant area
- Ability to work in an outdoor environment
- Sales and mobilisation skills, or willingness to learn these on the job
- Attention to detail and record-keeping skills
- Ability to deliver and achieve targets under pressure and tight deadlines
- Fluency in Hindi or other local language is a must; basic written and spoken knowledge of English (preferred)
- Self-motivated, confident character with the ability to interact with sensitivity and respect with people from various backgrounds
- Good with computers, smartphones and/or tablets; knowledge of MS Office
- Valid driver's license and willingness to travel 100% of the time and/or to relocate

Remarks

- Initial 3-month probation / training period. Thereafter, this will be a full-time permanent position.
- You will be initially stationed at Nanpara, Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh. You may be assigned, after advance notice, to a new base location in northern India where Oorja conducts its work or may initiate new work.

What We Offer

- A highly enthusiastic, self-driven international team
- A melting pot of diverse talents – development professionals, researchers, engineers, farmers, scientists and community mobilisers
- Competitive remuneration package
- Interesting field of work where you will build your understanding of solar technology and the development sector
- Close mentorship for career development
- A flat and open work culture and friendly work environment
- Experience and responsibility at an award-winning company in the renewable energy and agritech industries, among of the fastest growing segments of the global economy
- The chance to make a difference and to help improve people's life.

How to Apply

Even if you do not meet all the criteria, we still encourage you to apply. Please apply by filling the online application form here – www.oorjasolutions.org/apply-now.

Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination Statement

Oorja Development Solutions India Private Limited is an equal opportunity employer that values and respects the importance of a diverse and inclusive workforce. It is the policy of the company to recruit, hire, train and promote persons in all job titles without regard to religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, sexual orientation, marital status or disability status. Oorja endeavours to provide a safe, diverse and comfortable workplace. Oorja will not adversely discriminate, and prohibits other adverse discrimination at the workplace, against any person on its premises, whether that person is in its employment or otherwise. If you can contribute to our organisation, you are welcome, regardless of your roots, religion, age or gender.