

Business Development Officer

Field Office, Uttar Pradesh, Full-time

Base Location: Bahraich, Barabanki, Lakhimpur and Sitapur district, (UP)

Possible Relocation in any part of UP

100% Field Role; Frequent Travel Required in Field Locations

Reporting Line: Business Development Manager



About Oorja

Oorja (www.oorjasolutions.org) is an award-winning social enterprise operating in India. We are on a mission to empower 1 million farmers globally by 2035 with the agricultural solutions they need to sustainably increase their income and quality of life.

We are a Farming-as-a-Service company working at the intersection of sustainable agriculture and clean energy. Founded in 2016, Oorja aims to address the climate crisis by promoting clean solar energy in India through inclusive and affordable solar-powered irrigation solutions. Oorja leverages decentralised solar PV infrastructure to provide clean energy and climate-smart solutions that meet the needs of farmers and farming based institutions. Our farmer-centric business models enable transition from fossil fuels to clean energy thereby reducing carbon footprint, boosting productivity, increasing income, long term saving and enhancing climate resilience of communities, contributing to the SDGs.

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 funders and partners in this mission are:



Role Background

As a Business Development Officer, you will be based in Uttar Pradesh 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, and agronomy advisory services. Your responsibilities are 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 Business Development Officer's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Identify promising sites for new projects and provision of agri-energy services including "Oonnati" irrigation, "Oodyam" services and all other services which are ongoing in the company.
- 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 & Abilities

- 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.

Reporting Relationships

- Reports to Business Development Manager

What We Offer

- A highly enthusiastic, self-driven and international team
- A melting pot of diverse talents – development professionals, researchers, engineers, farmers, scientists and community mobilisers
- Competitive remuneration package
- Financial support for health and accident insurance
- One Saturday per month off
- 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 the fastest-growing segments of the Indian economy
- The chance to make a difference and to help improve people's lives.

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.