



The Food Security Education Project

The Food Security Education Project (FSEP) is initiating a program to support candidates who are currently employed in academic or administrative positions in Nepal and wish to pursue an education for a M.Sc. or PhD degree in a food-security related discipline.

INTRODUCTION:

The FSEP initiated a scholarship program in 2024 for B.Sc. candidates who wish to pursue an in-country degree in one of the many food security related sciences. Twenty scholarships were awarded in 2025, with scholars now pursuing a B.Sc. degree of their choice. We anticipate awarding a similar number of scholarships again in 2026.

In the interim we have become aware of the alarming decline in expert-level human resources in Nepal's agriculture and food security sectors. We are also aware of the importance of the agricultural sector in Nepal's economy and the need to improve food and nutritional security for Nepali citizens. Climate-related adversities are increasingly common the world around, and Nepal is no exception to these complex challenges. The need for well-trained human resources is essential to evaluate this host of challenges and provide effective solutions based on sound training and in-country experiences where candidates remain embedded in the Nepali context while developing and evaluating research proposals and results.

Guiding Principles of FSEP MSc/PhD Scholarship and Research Awards – 2026

- Funding for M.Sc. or Ph.D. degrees in the food security sciences will be awarded by the FSEP for approved projects at Nepali institutions only.
- Research must be anchored in Nepal's priority food security needs.
- Applicants must provide a project concept proposal and an advisor to the project, both acceptable to your institution of choice.
- Recruitment will be country-wide, but with attention to food insecure districts.
- Graduates must commit to service in Nepal for a minimum of three years (M.Sc.) or five years (Ph.D.) following graduation.
- Our partnership with Nepali institutions is intended to leverage and support existing programs. *These programs include IAAS-TU, AFU, FWU, and NARC.*

COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP and RESEARCH SUPPORT for IN-SERVICE M.Sc. or Ph.D. CANDIDATES.

The FSEP will partner with Nepali institutions in considering scholarships for innovative students for research projects in disciplines considered the most urgent for national priorities. Candidates submitting applications will be selected on a competition basis. Urgent priorities would include the following:

- Plant Breeding/Crop Production/ Agronomy/Extension
- Crop Disease and Pest Management
- Soil Health and Sustainable Agricultural Practices
- Specific Food Security issues demanding urgent national attention.

The following requirements must be met to be considered for an award:

- Applicants must have a B.Sc. degree, be currently employed and completed a minimum of three years of on-the-job employment.
- Academic studies and research projects must be in one of the food security sciences.
- A commitment to remain in Nepal and serve in a food security related field for a minimum of three years (M.Sc.) or five years (Ph.D.) following graduation. To meet FSEP objectives scholars must have a minimum service time to contribute after your education. Thus, we are imposing a maximum age limit of 50 years for all applicants.
- Applicants may wish to include an advisor in a district addressing a food security concern.
- Applicants must pass entrance exam requirements for the university you expect to attend. The FSEP may cover 50% of the entrance exam expense.
- In-service candidates must produce written permission from their employer that the candidate would be allowed a leave from their employment or other accommodation for the purpose of this education, should s/he be selected.
- Publication requirements and data to support publication will be agreed upon between the FSEP and the host institution. These details will be noted in the final proposal, assuming the proposal is accepted and the data support publication.
- The following elements should be included in submitting a **Project Concept Proposal**:
 - State the issue or question being addressed and provide evidence supporting the rationale for the investigation.
 - A clear statement of the goal and specific objectives to be achieved.
 - A summary of planned activities and how they support the project objectives.
 - Describe the anticipated results and the benefits to the target community.
 - Describe any obstacles to completion you may encounter.
- Those currently pursuing a M.Sc. or Ph.D. will not be considered for this project.

Mode of submission:

1. Your application must be submitted online. Applications may be submitted here <https://foodsecurityed.org> beginning November 15, 2025.
2. Only one submission per applicant will be allowed.
3. Only completed forms will be accepted. Please send any questions you may have to contact@foodsecurityed.org with the subject line 'MSc PhD Application Questions'.
4. Deadline for preliminary proposals will be December 15, 2025.
5. Preliminary proposals selected on a competitive basis will form a short-list of candidates who will be invited to submit a full proposal. Submission format and dates are to be determined.
6. Applicants who have completed a B.Sc. degree may submit applications year-round in the interest of identifying candidates for future consideration.

In preparation for submitting your application you will need the following:

1. Applicant name:
2. Birth date (Day/Month/year):
3. Gender:
4. Home address:
5. District:
6. Email address:
7. Confirm email address:
8. Cell phone:
9. Your current employment status:
 - a. Institution where you are employed: _____
 - i. Type: Govt./Govt. funded/University/NGO/Private: _____
 - ii. Location of your employment. City: _____ District: _____
 - b. Number of years and months on the job:
 - c. Your job title:
 - d. Brief description of your responsibilities:
 - e. If your employer is willing to provide aid toward your education, what form would this take (e.g., financial support, part-time employment, etc.)?

Academic Record

10. Please list academic institutions you attended, and any degrees granted:
 - Institution(s): _____
 - Degree granted: e.g., B.Sc. Agronomy, 2019; M.Sc. Plant breeding, 2021, etc. _____
 - GPA to date: (B.Sc.: _____; M.Sc.: _____)
 - List any awards you may have received: _____

Technical details of your project concept proposal.

11. Provide a **Project Concept Proposal**, taking into consideration the elements mentioned above.
12. Name of the university you prefer to attend.
13. Name of the advisor(s) who may help guide you during your project.
[If you do not currently have a preferred institution or advisor, please indicate not applicable (N.A.). The FSEP does not provide recommendations on the above. Advisory Teams will render an opinion on the merits of your full proposal where these would be declared and who may be consulted.]
14. We have preliminary budget estimates from Nepali colleagues. If your project concept is selected, you should expect to provide a budget for living allowances and the proposed research project.

Successful concept proposals will not support:

- International travel except in partnership with your university.
- Attendance at conferences without presentation of research results.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA OF FINAL AWARDS:

- Project Concept Proposals will be evaluated by members of a FSEP Advisory Team and by a Nepali in-country Advisory Team. Final proposals and budgets will need approval of the FSEP Board of Directors.
- Quality and Nepal-focused relevance of your proposed concept proposal.
- Leadership and community engagement.
- Please provide a brief letter of support from your supervisor describing your academic interests and the role of your education upon re-engagement in the Nepali food security landscape.
- The FSEP will inform all applicants of the status of their proposal.