

**Vacancy for a Full-Time Research Assistant – MPhil (1)**  
**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Coordinated Research**  
**Project (CRP D31034)**

**Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture,**  
**Rajarata University of Sri Lanka**

Applications are invited from qualified graduates for the Post of Research Assistant (Full-Time) leading to a MPhil Degree for the project titled "Enhancing animal phenotyping for improved productivity and resilience". This project is funded by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Project activities will be conducted at the Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and farmer fields in the dry zone of Sri Lanka covering Northern, North Central and Eastern Provinces. The selected candidate will contribute to research on advanced animal phenotyping, feed efficiency, methane production, productivity and resilience of cattle under extensive production systems in the dry zone of Sri Lanka.

**Project Duration:** 2 years, full-time

**Qualifications:**

1. BSc (Special) in Agriculture / BSc (Hons) in Agriculture or an equivalent degree in a relevant field, with a First Class or Second Class Honours, preferably with a major/specialization in Animal Science.
2. Applicants awaiting the official graduation certificate may also apply, provided that they have completed all degree requirements.
3. Research experience in animal nutrition, forage science, livestock production, feed evaluation or related areas and, experience in conducting animal feeding trials and handling cattle will be added advantages.
4. Good proficiency in written and spoken English.
5. Knowledge of biostatistics, data analysis and/or computational methods will be an added advantage.

**Additional Requirements and Conditions:**

- The selected candidate will be required to register for a full-time MPhil programme at the Postgraduate Programme, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, subject to meeting the University's admission requirements.
- The position will involve extensive fieldwork, including travel to livestock farms in the Northern, North Central and Eastern Provinces.
- Applicants should be willing to undertake field-based research and work with farmers and livestock under extensive management conditions.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary research team.
- Willingness to undertake fieldwork under challenging environmental conditions.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills for working with farmers, researchers and other stakeholders.
- Ability to maintain accurate research records and manage research data.

- The selected candidate will have opportunities to be an author in scientific publications and participate in dissemination of research findings through conferences and other scientific forums.

### Monthly Stipend:

|                                                                    |               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bachelor's degree with a First Class or Second class + M.Sc.       | Rs. 80,000.00 |
| Bachelor's degree with a First Class or Second Upper Class Honours | Rs. 70,000.00 |
| With a Bachelor's degree with a Second Lower Class                 | Rs. 60,000.00 |

*This is gross salary including EPF and ETF.*

### Notes:

- The candidates who are currently employed at a university, state/private sector department/institute should submit his/her application through the respective head of the university/department/institute.
- The selected candidate will be required to enter into a bond agreement with Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in accordance with the applicable University regulations.
- As this is a full-time MPhil programme, the applicant is required to apply for full-time study leave if selected.

### How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit an application with the following documents.

1. Covering letter
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. Certified copies of academic/professional certificates
4. Evidence of research/work experience
5. A brief statement of motivation (maximum one page)
6. Contact details of two referees, preferably including at least one academic referee.

Hard copies of the application should be sent **by registered post** under the reference **“Project Research Assistant – IAEA (AFS)”** marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope to:

**Prof. S.C. Somasiri**  
 Chief Scientific Investigator  
 Department of Animal and Food Sciences  
 Faculty of Agriculture  
 Rajarata University of Sri Lanka  
 Puliyanikulama, Anuradhapura

Applications should reach the above address **on or before 15 October 2026**. An electronic copy containing all application documents combined into **one PDF file** should also be emailed to **sharinisc@agri.rjt.ac.lk** on or before the closing date.

**Method of Selection:**

Applications will be screened based on academic qualifications, relevant research experience, technical skills and suitability for the proposed MPhil research. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview. The final selection will be made by the Project Team in accordance with the relevant University procedures.

The Project Team reserves the right to shortlist the candidates. Applications which do not meet the requirements, incomplete applications and applications which reach after the closing date will be rejected without intimation.

Prof. S.C. Somasiri

Chief Scientific Investigator