



Terrestrial Ecology Laboratory @ IISER Kolkata

Mohanpur - 741246, District Nadia, West Bengal, INDIA

(<https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/robert-john/>)

Applications are invited for one Junior Research Fellow (JRF) under an ANRF project at IISER Kolkata on the Terai-Duar Savanna and Grasslands Ecoregion

We invite one Junior Research Fellow for **plant diversity, and above-ground and below-ground carbon assessments** in forest and grassland ecosystems in the Terai ecoregion. This project on **“Recent decadal-scale changes in land use/land cover in the Terai-Duar Savanna and Grasslands Ecoregion: Implications for terrestrial carbon cycling and plant biodiversity”** is funded by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India.

The JRF will work with a team and carry out plant diversity assessments using vegetation plots and will also collect soil samples from the plots for soil carbon measurements in the laboratory. The JRF will be based at IISER Kolkata but will undertake extensive field work in and around multiple Terai protected areas including Manas, Jaldapara, Valmiki, and Rajaji. This work will provide an excellent opportunity for field research, analyses, learning, and training.

1. Number of positions available: 1 (one)

2. Funding Agency: ANRF, Government of India, New Delhi

3. Project PI: Dr Robert John Chandran, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

4. Essential Qualifications: Master's Degree in Botany/Ecology/Environmental Science/Life Science. The candidate should be highly motivated to carry out field research with the relevant skills in field botany of both woody and herbaceous plant species. Prior field research experience that is relevant to this project is essential. The candidate should have qualified at least one National Exam such as CSIR/UGC NET-LS, GATE, ICAR-NET, JGEEBILS or equivalents.

5. Desirable Qualifications: Strong experience and field botany in tropical deciduous forests and grasslands anywhere in India, but preferably in Terai ecosystems. Experience with soil sampling and laboratory analysis would highly desired.

6. Duration and Salary: The employment will be for a period of SIX MONTHS, which may be extended beyond one year based on performance and motivation of the candidate. The monthly will based on ANRF norms including HRA.

7. Age limit: Age limit and age relaxation will be as per GOI rules.

8. How to Apply: Interested candidates are requested to send their CV by email with full personal and professional details, the names of at least two referees, and a statement of suitability for the position. Please also include scanned mark sheets, national exam qualification certificates, and proof of work experience, all uploaded as a single PDF file. The email address is **tecollab.iiserk@gmail.com**. Include the subject line “**Plant Diversity JRF**”.

9. Last date and time for receiving applications: January 21, 2026.

10. Interview: Shortlisted candidates will be called for an online interview.

Terms and Conditions

- a) The project is on-going, and the selected candidates are expected to join immediately after selection.
- b) Only highly suitable candidates will be shortlisted for the interviews.