

## M S Swaminathan Research Foundation

### Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Food Security and Rural Prosperity

The Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Food Security and Rural Prosperity (NVA) was established at MSSRF, Chennai, on the occasion of the death centenary of Jamsetji Tata in 2004. NVA serves the National Alliance for Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre, a multi-stakeholder alliance of over 150 Partners who are committed to the cause of taking the benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to all the 600,000 villages of India by 15 August 2007, which marks the 60th anniversary of India's Independence. NVA will be the largest Professional Academy in the world, since it will have as Fellows over a million rural women and men, who will be the torch-bearers of the rural knowledge revolution. NVA is supported by a generous grant from the Tata Social Welfare Trust and Tata Education Trust.

Applications are invited for the following positions in NVA.

#### 1. Programme Director (Coordination):

Candidates should have proven leadership qualities and the necessary technical background to coordinate the different activities of NVA. Experience of organization of ICT Centres in the areas of monitoring and evaluation will be important. Master's or Doctoral Degree in Rural Development or Social Work or Development Economics with working knowledge of ICT will be an essential qualification.

#### 2. Programme Director (Connectivity):

This position needs expertise in all areas of connectivity (internet, TV, radio and vernacular press), so that an appropriate mix of ICT can be used to reach the unreached in villages. Master's in Engineering with specialization in Communication Technology with expertise in computing and internet technology will be necessary.

#### 3. Programme Director (Content):

This position is key to the success of NVA, since ultimately rural women and men will be interested in the activities of NVA only if the information provided is demand driven and location and time specific. Priority areas will be education, health, water, weather, agriculture, livelihoods and markets.

*Qualification:* Master's or Doctoral Degree in development studies/agriculture/social sciences with broad interest covering the welfare of rural poor (health, education, agriculture, livelihoods, etc.)

#### 4. Programme Director (Capacity Building):

Organization of training programmes for rural women and men (grassroot academicians) and Panchayati Raj leaders will be the principal responsibility of the candidate chosen for this position. This position will also involve coordination of the election of Fellows of NVA. Experience of enterprise development and the ability to conceive and carry out training programmes relevant to the rural poor, will be essential.

#### 5. Programme Director (Organization and Management):

This position will involve the development of sustainable models of management by rural women and men, such as ICT Self-help Groups and of local level partnerships. A Degree in development management/rural economics/social work with an aptitude for managing rural enterprises and building sustainable and focused groups will be desirable. Should be able to establish partnerships that would enhance the effectiveness of NVA.

An aptitude for working in rural areas with the rural poor is essential.

MSSRF is an equal opportunity centre and women professionals are encouraged to apply. All the positions are in the scale Rs 20,000–25,000 together with house rent and other allowances.

Interested candidates are invited to apply with detailed CVs and 3 references to the Manager (Personnel), MSSRF, 3rd Cross Street, Taramani, Chennai 600 113 by **15 March 2005**. Information on MSSRF is at the web site: [www.mssrf.org](http://www.mssrf.org)