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**ICMR School of Public Health**

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**Field Epidemiology Training Program - Noncommunicable Diseases – Intermediate**  
[FETP – NCD – Intermediate, One-year in-service training]

**Admission Brochure 2023**

**1. INTRODUCTION TO ICMR-NIE**

ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai, is one of the premier Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Department of Health Research, Government of India. The Institute's vision is to be a catalyst for a vibrant national health system through responsive research, education, and training in epidemiology and public health. The ICMR School of Public Health at ICMR-NIE also offers 2-year master's level public health training affiliated to the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, since 2001 and M.Sc. (Biostatistics) affiliated to Periyar University, Tamil Nadu, since 2016.

**2. FETP – NCD - INTERMEDIATE**

ICMR-NIE is conducting a one-year training program namely Field Epidemiology Training Program-Noncommunicable Diseases (intermediate) {FETP-NCD (intermediate)}. This program is modeled on the two-year India Epidemic Intelligence Service Program (EIS) and in Field Epidemiology Training Program-Noncommunicable Diseases (FETP-NCD), a Government of India initiative, in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program is supported and funded by CDC-Atlanta.

**Cohort 2 FETP – NCD (intermediate) will commence in April 2023.**

**3. OBJECTIVES OF FETP-NCD (intermediate)**

- Enhance the skills and capacity of the State/District program officers on NCD epidemiology
- Improve the quality and use of NCD surveillance and program data
- Improve data collection, analysis, interpretation, and communication skills
- Increase collection and use of public health data for decision-making
- Strengthen capacity to respond to public health emergencies and threats

During the course, trainees will conduct the following activities and become proficient at

- Conducting surveillance data analysis of NCD intervention programs
- Conducting field investigation (surveys) & evaluation studies for NCD-related interventions
- Conducting a survey (group project)
- Planning and submitting District/State annual NPCDCS/NCD program implementation plan (PIP)

- Writing scientific abstracts, and brief reports, and delivering oral presentations to scientific and non-scientific audiences.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a) Service: **Regular/contractual employees of the Central/State Health Service or equivalent** (autonomous bodies or undertakings) permitted by their employer for the program
- b) Age: no limit  
However, at least three years of government service after completion of the program for the permanent government staff
- c) Target audience
  1. Program officers/ managers/ coordinators nominated by the State health department working at the State and District NCD program cell for at least 1 year (or)
  2. If there is no suitable candidate in the State/District NCD cell, the Employer/Nominator may identify a suitable candidate for this program by assuring that the candidate will be placed in the NCD cell during the course duration and thereafter (and)
  3. **Employees of UN Health Agencies** for India or **Non-Governmental Organizations** (NGOs) working in the field of NCD **for at least a year**
- d) **Undertaking:** Willingness expressed by the trainee to serve three years in the NCD program/NCD-related public health activities post-training

#### 5. DURATION

It is a part-time-in-service program with a minimum duration of one year. If candidates are unable to complete the required Core Activities of Learning (CALs), the program duration may be extended after assessing the progress and skills. The extension will be at the discretion of the course coordinator and mentors

#### 6. CERTIFICATION

A certificate of completion, jointly signed by ICMR-NIE, India, and CDC, will be awarded to the trainee on completing all planned Core Activities of Learning (CALs).

#### 7. SELECTION PROCESS

Through preliminary screening, candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be shortlisted by a Screening Committee. The Screening Committee will consider the candidate's application, transcripts, and other documents submitted with the application. The candidates recommended by the Screening Committee will be interviewed and selected. Desirable qualities include:

- Commitment to a career in public health in India
- Ability to work independently and respond to supervision
- Problem-solving aptitude; computer skills, and scientific writing ability

## 8. ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING PROGRAM

The salient feature of the training program is its approach of 'learning by providing epidemiologic services.' The training program provides both service and training, but the training is primarily "on the job" rather than classroom teaching. The training's primary focus is to develop applied epidemiologic skills under a mentor in the field assignment. Periodic short classroom sessions are provided to prepare trainees for their field duties. Regularly scheduled seminars offer opportunities for additional instruction, practice presentations, and team building.

Program duration will comprise classroom training (8-10 weeks) at ICMR-NIE or other institutions & on-the-job training (38-40 weeks). The duration of each contact session would be for a maximum duration of two weeks. The trainees will be in their parent department except during the contact sessions.

## 9. ASSIGNMENTS / PLACEMENTS

Trainees should be placed in the State or District NCD program/NCD-related project for the entire one-year period in their respective states. The trainees will work closely with her/his mentor and other supervisors, as assigned, to complete the Core Activities of Learning (CALs) while also contributing to the placement sites' objectives.

## 10. CORE ACTIVITIES OF LEARNING (CALs)

The CALs are activities that provide opportunities to develop proficiency in critical epidemiologic competencies. The competencies are based on the following skills required to do the job of a practicing field epidemiologist

- a) Analysis of a data set for any NCD
- b) Field investigation/Program-Implementation-Planning (PIP)
- c) Group activity- Evaluation of NCD Program/any NCD initiative in a project mode
- d) Group activity- an epidemiological study or implementation science study
- e) Scientific abstract(s)/brief report/oral presentation

## 11. MENTORSHIP / SUPERVISION

Mentorship will be provided by ICMR-NIE mentors who will provide technical support throughout the training program. Additional technical support will be provided by local experts/subject matter experts, who will be considered co-mentors.

## 12. CHARGES

- a) There is no fee for this program
- b) The FETP-NCD (intermediate) trainees will be provided free accommodation/food during their visit to ICMR-NIE for the contact session. They will be governed by the terms and conditions of the ICMR-NIE

- c) Travel expenditures related to the training activities incurred by the FETP-NCD (intermediate) trainees during the training period will be reimbursed as per the rules

### 13. BENEFITS OF NOMINATING YOUR EMPLOYEE FOR THE TRAINING PROGRAM

- a) The trainees will support the NCD program, design monitoring systems, analyze and interpret the program data to improve the program implementation. They will be involved in these activities during the training period and will continue to use their expertise after training.
- b) Trainees will be skilled practicing epidemiologists equipped to use implementation research methods to evaluate the program and design epidemiological investigations.
- c) They will aid in strengthening the public health systems capacity of the participating State/organization.

### 14. NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATION

**Applications will open on November 18, 2022.**

**The last date for receipt of applications is January 15, 2023.**

The nomination letter should indicate the state's willingness to permit the employee to enroll in the program if selected and permit to attend the program activities as in-service. The candidates will continue to do their duties in their parent department at full salary during the training period.

The nominated candidates may submit their applications online on the institute's Website: [www.nie.gov.in](http://www.nie.gov.in)

For further details, contact:



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