**Project Title**: Local Systems Research for Agricultural Innovation in Bihar, India (Remote work)

**UROP Department/Lab/Center:** Edgerton Center (EC)- MIT D-Lab

**MIT Faculty Supervisor Name**: Elizabeth Hoffecker, ehoffecker@mit.edu

**Term UROP is offered**: Fall 2021

**Apply By:** September 10, 2021

**Project Description:** As disruptions to global food production systems increase due to challenges from climate change, pandemics, political instability and other factors, the capacity for agricultural systems to adapt, innovate, and transform themselves becomes paramount. All agricultural innovation processes take place within a complex local system context, which influences the trajectory and outcomes of those innovation efforts. This project involves conducting secondary research, and potentially systems analysis, to support an evaluation of a complex agricultural transformation initiative in Bihar, India, that is being implemented through a partnership between the State of Bihar, the World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

This project is structured as a team UROP project and we are recruiting 1-2 additional students to join the team that is currently conducting this research. Specific research topics for the Fall semester are likely to focus on one or more of the following areas: 1) Farmer producer organizations (FPO) in Bihar, and their functioning in the context of traditional agricultural systems in the region; 2) Women’s self-help groups (SHG) in Bihar and the conditions under which female farmers benefit from agricultural aggregation schemes; and 3) Identifying and obtaining relevant and credible datasets to inform this research.

**Prerequisites:** Familiarity with and/or interest in agricultural systems in Bihar, India. We are particularly interested in students with background knowledge and/or an interest in agricultural practices in the Indian context and/or experience assessing or mapping complex socio-technical systems, such as agricultural production systems and local market systems. Prior experience conducting secondary research preferred.

**How to apply:** Interested applicants should contact: romita@mit.edu (with ehoffecker@mit.edu in copy), with any questions about the project, a brief explanation of why they are interested, and a description of relevant prior experience. Students should apply directly for UROP funding or specify if they would like to work for credit or volunteer.

**Contact:** Romita Mitra, romita@mit.edu