Indian student Chetan Choithani is undertaking doctoral research at the University of Sydney into the critical issue of food security after winning a Prime Minister’s Endeavour Award.

Chetan is working with Associate Professor Bill Pritchard on an Australian Research Council funded project looking at food security in rural India and the country’s uneven rate of development.

Chetan, from Rajasthan in the north west of India, says the work is of huge importance: “Despite its rapid progress in recent years, India is still home to a quarter of the world’s hungry people.”

He is currently conducting fieldwork in the Indian state of Bihar before returning to Sydney to analyse the data and begin finalising his thesis.

Chetan is working towards a PhD in Human Geography and says that studying in Australia would have been impossible without the assistance provided by his Endeavour Award.

The Prime Minister’s Award goes to the top 20 incoming recipients of Endeavour Postgraduate Awards, providing them with an extra $10,000 per year for three years.