Agroscope Job Advertisement

Position
Postdoctoral Research Associate in protein crops: variety characterization and modelling

Introduction
Soybean breeding efforts allowed growing this crop in colder temperate climate, like Switzerland. The goal to improve protein autonomy, especially for organic agriculture, increased the need for suitable cultivars with both, earliness at maturity and tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses.

The EVASION project aims to better characterize varieties, especially which underlying processes explain their suitability for organic production, both in optimal and water stress conditions. We will study more particularly the tolerance to weed infestation, and the mechanisms of competitively toward weeds. The findings of this study will be used to adapt the criteria of VCU evaluation. A crop model will be used to test variety performance in stressed conditions and support breeding programs.

A better knowledge of how legume crops behave when confronted to competition will be used in the evaluation of mixed cropping with field peas, and the assessment of variety performance when grown with another species. The work involve field trials, controlled conditions experiments and modelling.

Tasks
You will:
- coordinate the scientific aspects of the projects
- contribute to develop protocols and data acquisition
- contribute to the field work and greenhouse experiments set up
- validate and improve existing models based on field and greenhouse results
- prepare reports on the ongoing results and workshop presentations for national meetings
- publish the outcomes of this research in peer-reviewed journals and present them at international scientific conferences

Requirements
- PhD in the in crop- or, environmental sciences or related fields
- a strong interest in crop physiology, and understanding of field crops agronomy and cultivars management.
- some experience with crop modelling
- You are a communicative person, who is independent in his work and appreciate to work in a team.
- You are proficient in statistical analysis (R), as well as IT skills, and have experience in writing scientific papers.
- Proficiency in English; good knowledge of two official Swiss languages round out the requirements profile (working languages of the group are French and English; some partners are German speaking)

Information on the Employer
Agroscope is the Swiss federal centre of excellence for research in the agriculture and food sector. Its researchers carry out their work at a number of sites in Switzerland. Headquartered in Bern-Liebefeld, Agroscope is attached to the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER.

This position is based at the group of Varieties and Production Techniques of Agroscope. The work will be carried out in collaboration with researchers of the INRAE of Dijon. We offer a stimulating work environment in a multidisciplinary consortium with diverse actors of the Swiss partners of the wheat value chain IP-Suisse, Jowa and DSP, as well as a close support throughout the project.

We offer varied work in a multidisciplinary research team, as well as thorough initial training. Agroscope has excellent core facilities providing support in a wide array of research fields.
Application
If this challenge appeals to you and you meet our requirements profile, we look forward to receiving your online application [human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch](mailto:human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch), Ref.nr. 45909). Online applications consist of a single PDF comprising an application letter, a CV, a reference letter, copies of PhD diplomas, and the email addresses of 2 referees.

For further information, please contact Dr. Alice Baux, tel. +41 58 460 47 22, alice.baux@agroscope.admin.ch
Do not send applications to these email addresses.

Start date: 1 August 2021 or upon agreement. Duration of employment: initially, 2.5 years with a possible 6 months extension.