Agroscope Job Advertisement

Position
PhD Position in Phytopathology / Plant Molecular Biology

Introduction
Flavescence dorée is an emerging quarantine disease caused by the phytoplasma *Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis*. The disease threatens all winegrowing areas in Switzerland as well as several other European regions. Conventional control strategies based on uprooting and insecticide treatments are not enough to stem the spread of the disease, which affects new vineyards every year. Agroscope seeks to identify the mechanisms encouraging the development of the disease in order to implement innovative and environmentally friendly control strategies.

This interdisciplinary work, which includes field observations, experimental genetic and bioinformatic analyses, and laboratory and greenhouse quarantine experiments, brings teams of molecular geneticists, entomologists and institutional players from the field together with the specialist disciplines.

Tasks
- Genomics and phylogeny of *Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis*
- Search for early markers of infection (transcriptomic, metabolomic and histological analyses)
- Establishing an experimental disease-transmission system
- Investigating the movement of *Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis* through the plant vascular system
- Identifying alternative hosts and vectors

Requirements
- Proactive, independent and committed personality
- Excellent communication skills
- University degree in Microbiology / Plant Molecular Biology / Bioinformatics
- Experience in phytopathology an asset
- A basic grounding in French and very good knowledge of written and spoken English

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.

We offer varied work in a young and multidisciplinary research team, as well as thorough initial training. Agroscope and Lausanne University have excellent core facilities providing support in a wide array of research fields. The successful candidate will participate in the Doctoral School programme of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine.

Place of Work
1260 Nyon VD (Switzerland). / Doctoral School of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine, University of Lausanne.

Salary Category
As per Swiss National Science Foundation guidelines

Employment Level
100% (full-time)
Application

If this challenge appeals to you and your profile meets our requirements, we look forward to receiving your online application (human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch, Ref. no. 42584). Closing date: 30 June 2020 (or as soon as position is filled). Online applications consist of a single PDF comprising an application letter, a CV, a reference letter, copies of MSc and BSc diplomas, and the email addresses of 2 referees.

For further information please contact Dr. Olivier Schumpp, tel. +41 58 460 43 71, olivier.schumpp@agroscope.admin.ch (Head of the Virology, Bacteriology & Phytoplasmology Research Group) or Dr. Christophe Debonneville, tel. +41 58 484 95 91, christophe.debonneville@agroscope.admin.ch (Project Supervisor). Note: Your application should not be sent to these email addresses.

Start date: 1 September 2020. Duration of employment: 4 years.