



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 wine-growing areas in Switzerland and in several other European regions. Conventional control strategies based on uprooting and insecticide treatments are not enough to stem the spreading of the disease, which affects new vineyards each year. Agroscope seeks to identify the mechanisms that promote the development of the disease in order to implement innovative and environment-friendly control strategies.

This interdisciplinary work brings together teams of molecular genetics, entomologists and institutional players from the field in close contact with the professional branches. It includes field observations, experimental genetic and bioinformatic analyzes as well as experiments in greenhouse and quarantine laboratory.

Tasks

- ❖ Genomics and phylogeny of *Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis*.
- ❖ Search for early markers of infection (transcriptomic, metabolomic and histological analyzes).
- ❖ Establishment of an experimental disease transmission system.
- ❖ Investigation of *Candidatus Phytoplasma vitis* movement through the plant vascular system.
- ❖ Identification of alternative hosts and vectors.

Requirements

- ❖ Proactive, independent and committed personality.
- ❖ Excellent communication skills.
- ❖ University degree in microbiology / molecular biology of plants / bioinformatics.
- ❖ Experience in phytopathology is an asset.
- ❖ Notion of 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 program of the Faculty of Biology and Medicine.

Place of Work

Agroscope-Changins, 1260 Nyon (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%



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). Closing date: June 30, 2020 (or until 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 research group in virology, bacteriology & phytoplasmology) or Dr Christophe Debonneville, tel. +41 58 484 95 91, christophe.debonneville@agroscope.admin.ch (project supervisor). Do not send applications to these email addresses.

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

