

Background

FungiAlert is a young, growing and exciting agri-tech company that has developed world leading technology for understanding soil microbial communities. Our mission is to increase crop productivity sustainably, whilst minimising agriculture's environmental impact, by discovering superior microorganisms for the development of bio-products. After having secured a seed investment, we are now looking to grow our technical team to implement our vision of protecting our natural ecosystems by providing game-changing bio-products for agriculture that can replace chemical inputs.

We are committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace that harnesses personal development and focuses on excellence. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, etc., to support staff from different backgrounds and personal needs.

Job Title: Microbiologist

The candidate will assist with the isolation, identification and cell culture of microbial isolates that are sampled by the SporSenZ, FungiAlert's proprietary technology. The candidate will also assist with the design and implementation of microbial fermentation protocols. Previous experience with microbial fermentation is essential, and experience with glasshouse trials is desirable.

Reporting Line

Reports to Laboratory Manager and R&D Lead (direct line manager)

Salary

£28,000 FTE – flexible, preferred full time, but part time candidates can also be considered

Location

Rothamsted Research Centre, AL5 2JQ, Harpenden

Tasks & Responsibilities

- Assists with SporSenZ assembly, analysis & microbial isolation and characterisation
- Supports Laboratory Manager in Microbial Library Collection maintenance – including characterisation of microbes in the collection, and ensuring stable long-term storage of isolates
- Participates in the design of lab scale fermentation protocols for lead microbial candidates and carries them out
- Carries out microbial bioassays for the characterisation of microbial activity, such as competition studies, biofertilisation studies (i.e. phosphate solubilisation studies) and plant growth promotion to support product development pipeline
- Participates in the design and implementation of glasshouse trials

- Understands, promotes and applies SOPs, COSHH/Risk Assessments, Quality Control policies, Health and Safety, GLP, ensuring procedures are followed at all times

Experience Required

- Microbiology & Fermentation
- Experience carrying out molecular biology experiments (i.e. genomic DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing, etc.)
- Preferred experience carrying out glasshouse experiments for the characterisation of the activity of active ingredients (i.e. microbes) for crop inputs
- Level: BSc degree or equivalent in biology or equivalent practical industry experience (i.e. years of experience in private industry working with microbial fermentation for agritech, food, pharma, etc.)

Skills

- Good time management & multi-tasking skills
- The candidate will need to be self-motivated and capable of working independently with the ability to plan and take responsibility for own work using initiative, seeking advice where necessary
- Team working and effective communication – the candidate will need to demonstrate successful team working skills, adapt to team working practices and effective communication skills with all the members of the team.
- Scientific knowledge – supports experiment design
- Methodical – pays attention to detail, does things carefully and in an ordered way

If you are interested in becoming part of FungiAlert's team, please send us your cv and personal statement to info@fungialert.com before the 16th April.

We look forward to hearing back from you!