

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. Hence, the candidate should have experienced handling fungi and bacteria. The candidate will be responsible for designing and implementing microbial fermentation protocols and needs to be comfortable carrying out research and drawing meaningful conclusions for process optimisation. Previous experience with microbial fermentation is essential, and experience with glasshouse trials is desirable.

Reporting Line

Reports to R&D Lead (direct line manager)

Location

Rothamsted Research Centre, AL5 2JQ, Harpenden

Tasks & Responsibilities

- Design and carrying out lab scale fermentation protocols for lead microbial candidates, as well as the optimisation of the conditions to ensure obtaining inoculum with required specifications.
- 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
- 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
- Experience working with fungi and bacteria
- Level: BSc degree or equivalent in chemical or bioprocess engineering, biotechnology or equivalent.
- Practical industry or academic microbial fermentation experience (i.e. years of practical experience working with microbial fermentation for agritech, food, pharma, etc.)

Skills

- Good time management & multi-tasking skills
- Innovative spirit and experience carrying out research and development projects (from design to closure)
- 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 1st September August.

We look forward to hearing back from you!