

## Background

FA Bio (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 growing 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: Microbiology Laboratory Technician

The candidate will carry out assembly of SporSenZ and microbial analyses, including isolation, molecular identification, and cell culture of microbial strains. The candidate will also support research and development projects including maintaining microbial cultures, carrying out fermentation, and glasshouse trials. Experience working with microorganisms, in an aseptic environment and carrying out molecular biology experiments is essential.

## Reporting Line

Reports to R&D Lead (direct line manager) and will also be supervised by Laboratory Manager

## Salary

£26,500 FTE – flexible, preferred full time, but part time candidates will also be considered

## Location

Rothamsted Research Centre, AL5 2JQ, Harpenden

## Tasks & Responsibilities

- Assists with SporSenZ production chain, which involves preparation of parts, manufacturing and assembling in aseptic conditions of components, packaging and shipping parcels to collaborators
- Supports Microbial Library Collection – tasks include making microbiological media, isolation and purification of strains, microbial culture maintenance, identification using molecular biology techniques and data collection
- Laboratory organisation and maintenance may involve clearing and cleaning of work areas including instruments and participates in lab cleaning duties as necessary
- Stocks preparation and management, and preparing reagents for experiments
- Maintains laboratory instruments and is responsible for their calibration
- Supports research and development projects, for example by carrying out microbial bioassays for the characterisation of microbial activity (i.e. plate assays including microbial competition studies, invitro-nutrient solubilisation studies, etc.)
- Participates in glasshouse studies, including setting up, monitoring and data collection

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

### Experience Required

- Essential experience:
  - at least 4 years working in Microbiology Laboratory, carrying out relevant tasks such media preparation, microbial cell culture, working in aseptic conditions, using good microbiological practices to limit cross contamination, etc.
  - Molecular Biology experience such as genomic DNA extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, etc.
- Desirable experience in carrying out glasshouse experiments for the characterisation of the activity of active ingredients (i.e. microbes) as crop inputs
- Level: BSc degree or equivalent in biology or equivalent practical industry experience (i.e. years of experience in private industry working in a Microbiology laboratory)

### 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.
- Methodical – pays attention to detail, does things carefully and in an ordered way

**If you are interested in becoming part of FA Bio (FungiAlert) team, please send us your cv and personal statement to [info@fungialert.com](mailto:info@fungialert.com) before the 29th October.**

**We look forward to hearing back from you!**