

Post-Doctoral offer in tree-mycorrhizal fungi interaction

Reference: 20-12-00001

The Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), Spain, and Amorim will offer a Post-doctoral position in tree-fungi interaction. The call is open from Dec 1st to Dec 31st, 2020, or until a suitable candidate is found.

Project Title: Uncorking the capacity of mycorrhizal fungi to enhance cork oak productivity.

Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) has traditionally been grown in agroforestry systems with very limited forest management and the slow growth of the cork layer has been considered a structural characteristic of the system. Yet the potential effects of mycorrhizal fungi on cork growth have not been adequately addressed.

In this project we would be combining the expertise in the management of mycorrhizal fungi of the CTFC team with the expertise in cork oak management of the research team at Amorim's extended research network, to force a breakthrough in the management of cork oak plantations by taking advantage of the growth enhancement capabilities of mycorrhizal fungi.

TERMS OF THE APPOINTMENT

1. This contract is scheduled to start in early 2021.
2. Location: This research project will be developed in the laboratories of the University of Lleida, and CTFC in Solsona (Spain), and some of the activities will be conducted in the laboratories and experimental plantations of Amorim in Portugal.
3. This is a full-time position with the possibility of the successful candidate to be recruited as CTFC's permanent staff after a probationary period of one year.
4. Gross salary will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

What we are seeking

We are seeking a self-motivating, independent, and enthusiastic individual to conduct applied research on the effects of mycorrhizal fungi on cork oak growth and phellem development. The selected candidate should have a strong scientific CV and experience in tree physiology and eco-physiology, as well as the capacity to design experiments that would shed light on the effect of mycorrhizal fungi and early growing conditions on the production of cork. Knowledge of biotechnology, molecular biology and genomics would be welcome. Some background in mycology would be desirable. Also, writing and statistics skills would be needed.

We offer a full-time position as a post-doctoral fellow starting with a one-year contract which can be extended, for a second year depending upon performance, and beyond depending upon performance and funding.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The preferred candidates should have a doctorate degree in forestry, agronomy, biology or related fields, have proven research experience in tree physiology and plantation management, and be fluent in English.

ADDITIONAL (ASSESSABLE) QUALIFICATIONS

- Fluency in exposing ideas and discussing in public
- Teamwork capability
- Experience in managing R&D projects

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

The selection process is led by the Research Project team and will be overseen by the Management Office and the Human Resources Area of CTFC. This process consists of:

1. Admission of candidates: applicants must submit a curriculum vitae and EoI to the supervisor Dr. Carlos Colinas. carlos.colinas@udl.cat and to dep.personal@ctfc.es, until 31 december 2020, indicating the reference code of the offer. Applications referred to another portal, other than CTFC or SOC job openings section and the instructions included in this, will not be accepted. Further documents may be requested from pre-selected candidates.
2. Pre-selection: determination of compliance with the minimum requirements of the offer.
3. Selection: assessment of the preselected candidates by scoring based on objective criteria.
4. Final decision: in case of finding the suitable person, the election will be formally communicated to him/her, and the identification of the chosen person will be published on CTFC job openings section.