



Agroscope Job Advertisement

Title

Postdoc position: Biodiversity for ecosystem services (BioSerSys)

Introduction

Agroscope has launched a research programme entitled “Development of Environmental Indicators on Farms for Management and Enforcement Support” which aims to develop a system of indicators capable of assessing the achievements of agricultural policy objectives with respect to natural resources, the environment, and animal welfare at farm level. These indicators are expected to rely on new technologies for data collection and processing by farmers and enforcement bodies. The research programme consists of eight closely interacting, mutually complementary projects. The present post-doc position is part of this Research Program and will specifically focus on indicators of ecosystem services and biodiversity at the plot and farm level, and integrate routine measurement of these indicators into an overall approach to measuring sustainability. The project has an international dimension too as the biodiversity indicators’ screening will serve specific tasks of the Horizon 2020 Project “SHOWCASE”.

Tasks

- Conduct a review of the recent literature on the use of simple indicators of biodiversity and the induced ecosystem services
 - Derive a list of the most relevant indicators for regulating and supporting ecosystem services at farm scale
 - Establish and validate the system of easily measurable indicators for biodiversity and regulating and supporting ecosystem services
 - Draft the manual describing methods for measuring and interpreting biodiversity indicators and regulating and supporting ecosystem services at the plot and farm level
 - Integrate the system of these indicators into the overall sustainability analysis bringing together the other indicators and concepts of the research program
 - Present project results at international conferences and in peer-reviewed papers
 - Conduct stakeholder consultations in Switzerland
 - Translate the findings into recommendations for local stakeholders and for the national government
- Collaborate with the other 7 research partners of Agroscope

Requirements

- PhD and publication records in Ecology, Agriculture, Environmental Science, or in a related field
- Expertise in biodiversity indicators, and supporting and regulating ecosystem services
- Expertise spatial analysis (GIS) and in statistical analysis
- Strong conceptual and analytical skills
- Excellent writing skills
- Interest in stakeholder involvement and policy implications of research
- Achievement-oriented, communicative personality with a capacity for teamwork, interdisciplinary collaboration and a flair for project management
- Good knowledge of English and German (work languages)

Information on Agroscope

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.

The Agroscope Department for Agroecology and Environment at Zurich-Reckenholz conducts research for an environmental friendly and competitive agriculture. This Postdoc position will be affiliated to the research group Agricultural Landscapes and Biodiversity.

We offer a varied job in a dynamic work environment, as well as thorough training and a modern research infrastructure. Flexible working hours, good social benefits and a staff restaurant are among the benefits of this position.

**Place of work**

8046 Zürich-Affoltern

Salary category

According to the standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation

Employment level

80-100%

Contact

If you are interested in this challenge, we look forward to receiving your online application with CV, motivation letter, PhD-diploma (documents in a single PDF file) at human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch (Ref. 45009). For further information, please feel free to contact Dr. Philippe Jeanneret, philippe.jeanneret@agroscope.admin.ch, +41 58 468 72 28, or Dr. Yvonne Fabian, yvonne.fabian@agroscope.admin.ch, +41 58 481 93 66 (please do not send applications to these e-mail addresses). Application deadline: 8 April 2021.

Start date: 1st June 2021 or per arrangement. The contract duration is for three years.