

PhD position available at Agroscope

Position

PhD position in agro-ecology at the interface between wild bee ecology/conservation and soil science

Project description

Wild bees play a vital role for the pollination of wild plants and crops. Most wild bee species, and in particular most key crop-pollinating bees, are ground nesting in the soil. The project “Ground-nesting of wild bees - key drivers, impacts of agricultural soil management and consequences on bee reproductive success and soil functions” received funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation and aims at better understanding how agricultural management and soil conditions impact ground-nesting wild bees, and how bees may improve soil ecosystem functioning. In the framework of this project, the PhD candidate will perform field studies on the potential of innovative agricultural/agri-environmental management practices to promote ground-nesting wild bees in agricultural landscapes, and as well as field experiments using flight cages to test the impact of soil management on nesting and reproductive success of ground-nesting bees, as well as to quantify consequences of burrowing on soil structure and functioning. We are looking for an enthusiastic and highly motivated PhD to join our dynamic and interdisciplinary team at Agroscope, Department of Agroecology and Environment (Zürich, Switzerland).

Tasks

- Collecting field data in agricultural landscapes in Switzerland
- Conducting field experiments with ground-nesting wild bees
- Statistical analysis of data
- Publication of results in international scientific journals
- Presentation of results at international scientific conferences

Requirements

- MSc (or equivalent) in Biology, Ecology, Agronomy, Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Environmental Engineering or similar
- Expertise in (agro-)ecology, and/or bee pollination and/or soil science
- Experience in collecting field data and/or conducting field experiments
- Experience with statistical analysis, e.g. using the software R
- Good organizational skills
- Achievement-oriented, communicative personality with a capacity for teamwork
- Good communication and writing skills in English; knowledge of German is an advantage

Organisation

Agroscope is an innovative research institute for agriculture and nutrition attached to the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER. It has research stations at a number of sites around Switzerland. The Agroscope Department of Agroecology and Environment in Zürich (Reckenholz) conducts research for an environmental friendly and competitive agriculture.

We offer research work in an interdisciplinary project team, competent supervision and a modern research infrastructure. Start date: 1 September 2019, or as agreed. Duration: 4 years (48 months).

Place of work

Zürich

Salary

According to the standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation

Application

For further information, please contact Dr Matthias Albrecht (matthias.albrecht@agroscope.admin.ch, +41 58 468 74 13) or Prof Thomas Keller (thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch, +41 58 468 76 05). We look forward to receiving your online application including cover letter, CV, academic transcripts and the addresses of 2-3 referees in a single PDF file to matthias.albrecht@agroscope.admin.ch and thomas.keller@agroscope.admin.ch. Deadline for applications is 15 August 2019.