



Agroscope Job Advertisement

Title

Two Postdoc positions: What can we learn about insect biomass decline in Switzerland from existing data?

Introduction

The decline of insect biomass over several decades, which has been observed in a number of regions, is a major threat to biodiversity and ecosystem services. For Switzerland, there is contrasting evidence about the degree of insect biomass decline and the importance of the various potential drivers is controversially discussed. Entomologists of WSL, FiBL, CSCF, the Swiss Ornithological Institute and Agroscope have teamed up bring together existing data in order to improve the evidence base. Two PostDoc positions will be opened in order to analyze existing data and learn more about the degree and nature of insect biomass decline and about its drivers.

Tasks

- Collate existing long term data on insect populations in Switzerland
- Collate existing data on potential drivers for insect biomass decline
- Analyze trends of insect development (biomass, functional groups, traits, guilds) over the last 40 years with appropriate statistical tools (time series analysis, occupancy models,...)
- Analyze temporal trends of potential drivers and relate them to observed trends of insect populations
- Publish the results in international peer-reviewed journals and make the findings available to stakeholders by appropriate means of communication
- Develop research proposals to further investigate insect biomass decline in Switzerland and its drivers
- Communicate the findings at national and international Conferences
- Collaborate with entomologists at the above mentioned institutes

Requirements

- University degree and PhD in Ecology, Biology, Environmental Science or Agricultural Sciences
- Experience in advanced statistical analysis
- Experience in handling large databases
- Broad understanding of ecological processes related to arthropods in cultural landscapes
- Good writing and communication skills, appropriate publication record
- Achievement-oriented, communicative personality with a capacity for teamwork
- Fluent in English; good knowledge of two official Swiss languages round out the requirements profile (working languages of the group are German and English)

Information about 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 two 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 and good social benefits are among the perks of this position.

Place of work

8046 Zürich-Affoltern

Pay grade

According to standards of the Swiss National Science Foundation

Level of employment

80-100%



Contact

If you are interested, we look forward to receiving your application (documents in a single PDF file) at human.resources@agroscope.admin.ch (reference 44169) by January 7, 2021. For further information, please feel free to contact Dr. Felix Herzog, research group leader (felix.herzog@agroscope.admin.ch, +41 58 468 74 45). Please do not send applications to this e-mail address.

Agroscope will be closed from December 24, 2020 to January 3, 2021. No applications will be processed during this period.

Start date: 1 March 2021 or as per arrangement. The contract duration is for 1.5 years.