

Postdoctoral researcher, SOMAGENO project



About the workplace

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is a research organisation working to promote bioeconomy and sustainable use of natural resources. We provide solutions and services based on best available scientific knowledge to our customers. Our research results and services generate added value and sustainability as well as scientific evidence to support decision making. We carry out research on forestry, agriculture, food, game, and fisheries. We also perform statutory services. Natural Resources Institute Finland is one of the four Statistical Authorities in Finland.

Work tasks

We are searching for a post doc researcher to realize SOMAGENO project in collaboration with research groups at Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and Swedish Agricultural University (SLU). During the two-year project, the post doc will have a position at Luke, Finland (Tuija Aronens lab), but work part time at SLU, Sweden (Malin Elfstrands and Ulrika Egertsdotters labs).

In SOMAGENO project, potentials of combining somatic embryogenesis (SE) and marker assisted selection (MAS) in Norway spruce will be evaluated. We aim to analyse possibilities of early selection for resistance against the major forest pathogen, *Heterobasidion annosum*. There is variation in resistance of spruce to *Heterobasidion*, and the first marker PaLAR3 has been validated. Including selection for additional traits e.g. resistance in SE pipeline would add value to producers and users of SE plants. It may also be a way to deploy material more resistant to root rot much sooner than previously anticipated. Realization of this objective depends on that there is no trade-off between resistance and SE propagation. We will combine studies on SE potential with analyses of resistance loci in Norway spruce by bringing together large Finnish SE materials, Swedish expertise in molecular forest pathology, and achievements of SE research in both countries.

Qualifications

In practice, success in the position requires that the researcher has

- a PhD degree in biology, forestry or related sciences
- technical skills covering aseptic working, tissue culture, molecular biology, and basic bioinformatics methods
- fluent English (verbal, scientific writing)
- good collaborative skills, ability to move and work in research groups both in Finland and in Sweden

Previous experience on the research field of the SOMAGENO project is advantageous.

Scope of employment

Form of employment: Temporary employment

Scope: Office work

Commencement: 01/12/2018

Time-limited to: 30/11/2020

Type of work

Application

Last application date: 31/10/2018 16:00

Reference number: 30-410-2018

Send a digital application [via this link](#).

You may also apply for this position by submitting your application to the address below. The job reference of the role must be cited both in the actual application and on the envelope. Applications will not be returned.

Luonnonvarakeskuksen kirjaamo

Latokartanonkaari 9

00790 Helsinki, FINLAND

Salary

Appr. EUR 3700 per month / salary will be defined when selecting the new employee.

Employment

Number of positions advertised: 1

Contact

Contact person

Tuija Aronen

Principal Scientist

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Office

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Other

Location/office: Savonlinna (FIN) / Uppsala and/or Umeå (SWE)

Read more: [Natural Resources Institute Finland](#)

A trial period is 4 months.