

Research assistant – BRESOV project

The European Seed Association (ESA) is seeking a researcher to assist in the supervision of field trials under a Horizon 2020 project for which it is a partner. This fairly remunerated part-time position would be ideally suited to a candidate pursuing a PhD in a relevant field.

The BRESOV project (Breeding for Resilient, Efficient and Sustainable Organic Vegetable production) was prepared in response to the Horizon 2020 call “SFS-07-2017: Organic breeding – Increasing the competitiveness of the organic breeding and farming sectors”. Its objective is to improve the competitiveness of brassicae, tomato and snap bean when grown in an organic production system.

The candidate would be specifically tasked with coordinating ESA’s leadership of Task 4.1: Determination of the optimal agronomic conditions for organic seed production within Work Package 4: High quality organic seed production.

The objective of this task is to establish the optimal growing conditions and the thresholds of different agronomic parameters that have to be reached to get good yield and high-quality seed under low-input conditions and variable environments for organic farming (as compared to conventional seed production).

Certain elements of the trials are already pre-defined, including the sites (FR, IT, CH) and the parameters to apply (crop density, osmotic conditions, nutritional treatment). The responsibilities of the successful candidate would be as follows:

- Precisely define the set of varieties to use in the trials.
- Define the most appropriate traits to evaluate.
- Setup the trialling plan and agenda for the duration of the project.
- Develop the harmonized trialling protocol and provide recommendations to all partners involved in this task.
- Coordination with trial site partners.
- Regular supervision of the trials and collection of data at each trial site.
- Use collected data and statistical results to define the thresholds and optimal conditions to maximize the quantity and the quality of organic seeds in tomato, brassicas and bean.
- Present these thresholds and conditions in the form of a protocol guidelines to maximize organic seed production, to be made available to wider stakeholders in collaboration with Work Package 6: Communication, dissemination, training and exploitation.

The position would be for 4 years (the duration of the project). The tasks can be completed remotely and the position does not require relocation or attendance at the ESA offices in Brussels; travel expenses will be covered under the project.

The candidate would be expected to have a good working level of spoken and written English.

Deadline: Interested candidates are requested to send the [ESA Secretariat](#) their application (motivation letter (1 page) and CV in English) by **June 30th, 2018**.