

Fermentation Expert

Aphea.Bio is an R&D company that focuses on the exploitation of natural, beneficial interactions that occur between microorganisms and plants. Aphea.Bio discovers and develops new biology-based agricultural products for crop protection and crop improvement, hence shaping a more sustainable agriculture.

We are seeking highly motivated and innovative scientists to help us carry out the research and development of novel and superior agricultural biological products. Successful candidates will become part of a committed, creative, and highly dynamic team with opportunities to take responsibility and for personal development.

Aphea.Bio is **based in Gent, Belgium** embedded in the largest European Agro-Biotech valley.

To strengthen its development team Aphea.Bio is looking for a **Microbiology Fermentation Scientist** that will be responsible for aspects related to fermentation and scale-up of newly discovered biostimulant and biocontrol products based on bacteria and fungi.

Main responsibilities:

- Develop and optimize fermentation protocols for microbial products in lab and pilot scale bioreactors.
- Execution of downstream processing procedures at pilot scale.
- Scale-up fermentation from laboratory to production scale.
- Define, develop, and validate a fermentation process with an eye on cost of production, safety & shelf-life of the product, and compatibility with current agricultural practices.
- Identify and leverage advances in microbiology fermentation technologies, processes and equipment to impact programs.
- Maintain detailed records of (standard operating) protocols and results.
- Collaborate with external manufacturing parties to establish production procedures.
- Create experiments to promote secondary metabolite productions of microorganisms.

Qualifications:

- Hands-on experience on the practices and techniques of fermentation technology (liquid and/or solid state) for microbial products (biomass and secondary metabolites).
- Experience with optimization of cultivation parameters (nutrients, pH, oxygen) towards more biomass and/or secondary metabolites.
- Knowledge on upscaling from lab to pilot or industrial scale
- Ability to think strategically and creatively about development of microbial based products for agriculture.

- Ability to read, analyze and interpret scientific journal articles, technical procedures, and government regulations.

Education and Experience:

- MS or PhD in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Engineering (or equal through relevant experience) or related fields. • Experience with (pilot scale) fermentation and/or downstream processing techniques.
- At least three years of work experience in industry responsible for microbial fermentation (bacteria & fungi).

Other skills:

- Computer skills: proficiency in Word, Power Point and Excel applications. Experience with data management and statistics software is a plus.
- Language skills: fluent in English (written and verbal).
- Interpersonal skills: team player, creative, communicative, optimist, committed, flexible, entrepreneurial, organized, problem-solver.

Motivated applicants should send their CV including a cover letter to thijs.demulder@aphea.bio and veerle.vancleemput@aphea.bio .