

## Secondary Metabolites expert



Aphea.Bio is a young start-up company that focuses on the exploitation of natural, beneficial interactions that occur between microorganisms and plants. Aphea.Bio discovers and develops novel biostimulant and crop protection products, 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 R&D team, Aphea.Bio is looking for an expert in secondary metabolites who will guide all aspects related to the production and formulation for biostimulant and biocontrol products based on bacteria and fungi.

### **Main responsibilities:**

- Insight in upregulation of metabolites production of bacteria and fungi (1)
- Define and optimize purification strategies (1)
- Drive scale-up from laboratory to pilot production (2)
- Define the optimal agricultural formulation in liquid and solid (e.g. powder, granules...) products (2)
- Identify and manage contract research organizations and external research collaborations in an efficient manner to meet project deadlines (2)
- Identify and leverage advances in metabolite research, new technologies as well as processes and equipment to impact programs (1)
- Maintain detailed records of (standard operating) protocols and results (3)
- Support and coach the technical team (3)
- Be an active member of the R&D leadership team (3)

### **Qualifications:**

- Experience with working on bacteria and fungi and metabolites thereof
- Deep knowledge of and experience with the principles, practices and techniques of detection, evaluation and extraction technology for metabolite based products
- Experience in liquid and solid formats of biological products
- Knowledge on upscaling from lab stage to (pre-)commercial products
- Knowledge of the agricultural industry is a plus
- Strong ability to coordinate collaborations with external parties
- Ability to think strategically and creatively with regard to development products based on metabolites
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret scientific journal articles, technical procedures, and government regulations
- Strong capability to communicate and present data to R&D leadership team
- Experience in coaching and supervising technical staff

### **Education and Experience:**

- Ph.D. or MS in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering (or equal through relevant experience) or related fields

- At least three years of work experience in agricultural industry responsible for biological formulation (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 [manuele.ricci@aphea.bio](mailto:manuele.ricci@aphea.bio) and [Michael.houbraken@aphea.bio](mailto:Michael.houbraken@aphea.bio) before Oktober 30, 2023.