

Microbiology fermentation scientist

Apeha.Bio is a start-up company that focuses on the exploitation of natural, beneficial interactions that occur between microorganisms and plants. Apeha.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.

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

To strengthen its R&D team Apeha.Bio is looking for a microbiology fermentation scientist that will be responsible for all 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 shake flasks and bioreactors
- Execution of microbial fermentation for seed and foliar application for lab- and field trial purposes
- Scale-up fermentation from laboratory to production scale
- Manage all fermentation R&D operations in close cooperation with formulation experts
- 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 manage contract research organizations and external research collaborations in an efficient manner to meet project deadlines
- Identify and leverage advances in microbiology fermentation research, new technologies as well as processes and equipment to impact programs
- Maintain detailed records of (standard operating) protocols and results
- Support and coach the technical team
- Be an active member of the R&D leadership team

Qualifications:

- Deep knowledge of and hands-on experience on the principles, practices and techniques of fermentation technology (liquid and solid state) for microbial products
- Hands-on experience with working with bacteria and fungi and spores thereof
- Knowledge on upscaling from lab stage to (pre-)commercial products
- Knowledge of the agricultural industry
- Strong ability to coordinate collaborations with external parties
- Ability to think strategically and creatively with regard to development of microbial products

- 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, Engineering (or equal through relevant experience) or related fields
- Experience of working in a GLP/GMP environment is a plus
- At least three years of work experience in agricultural industry responsible for biological 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

s

Motivated applicants should send their CV including a cover letter to steven.vandenabeele@aphea.bio and Isabel.vercauteren@aphea.bio before September 30, 2019.