

The Center of Plant Systems Biology and Biotechnology (CPSBB) offers the following position:

Plant biologist/Agronomist

Occupation: Full-time. **Period:** Fixed-term contract, funding available for five years.

Apply no later than: February 15, 2023

CPSBB is looking for highly motivated biologists to work on the Horizon Europe project NatGenCrop. The main goal is improving stress tolerance of major vegetable crops (tomato, pepper, legumes, lettuce) and designing new strategies for maintaining higher yields and food quality even during unfavourable weather conditions. One of the major research directions is exploring the wide genetic and phenotypic variations of vegetables to improve agronomical traits under abiotic stresses. A suite of genetics and genomics approaches, such as GWAS in combination with QTL, will be employed to identify genes contributing to high yield and stress tolerance. In another research direction, the fruit metabolic compositions will be characterized in terms of flavour and health-related compounds to assess the impact of abiotic stress on fruit quality. A wide range of plant phenotypic and metabolic traits will be evaluated, followed by transcriptomic profiling in two genome-wide association (GWAS) panels and two backcrossed inbred lines (BILs) populations for both tomato and pepper. In addition to genes modulating abiotic stress tolerance, we will also investigate genes with potential roles in disease resistance and genes influencing morphometric and colorimetric traits such as fruit shape, size, and colour in pepper and tomato.

Work place:

The work place will be at CPSBB in Plovdiv, Bulgaria (www.cpsbb.eu). Plovdiv is a modern city with rich history. It is one of the oldest cities in Europe, established in the 6th millennium BCE. Currently, Plovdiv is one of the academic and industrial centers of Bulgaria, home to six Bulgarian universities and several research institutions. Plovdiv is also rich in cultural life and entertainment for young people. The European Commission declared Plovdiv the European Capital of Culture for 2019. CPSBB is an equal opportunity employer.

Job Requirements:

- MSc degree in Agronomy or related plant biology fields.
- Good scientific background and technical skills in the plant biology disciplines mentioned above.
- Excellent English presentation and communication skills (written and oral).

Main responsibilities:

- Growing plants on the field and in the lab, carrying out experiments
- Technical work related to plant growth/plant care, laboratory maintenance, ordering chemicals.
- Participation in other project's events and activities.

We offer:

- Competitive salary, depending on the level of experience.
- Work and career development in a young and internationally competitive research team.
- State-of-the-art equipment and facilities for plant research.
- Funding is available immediately.

Deadline for application: 15 February 2023

Applicants interested in the position should send the following documents:

- Application letter including a statement about why you apply for this position.
- CV including a list of published and accepted publications (if any).
- Contact information, including email addresses, of a minimum of one reference person
- Send your application documents as a single pdf-file to secretary@cpsbb.eu.