Job posting

**Type of position**

- [x] scientific
- [ ] administrative

**Target group**

- [x] graduates
- [ ] post docs
- [ ] other

**Title**

PhD student in Agronomy (m/f/d)

**Institution**

The mission of the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) as a nationally and internationally active research institute is to deliver economically, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture – together with society. ZALF is a member of the Leibniz Association and is located in Müncheberg (approx. 35 minutes by regional train from Berlin-Lichtenberg). It also maintains a research station with further locations in Dedelow and Paulinenaue.

**Position**

We are offering a PhD position within the project the integrated priority project “Cropping system diversification to increase the resilience of farming systems”. The project aims at gaining knowledge on how to grow mixed cropping systems in Brandenburg, Germany and developing predictive tools to assess their resilience under climate change. The project is composed of three sub-projects, with respective focuses on process understanding, predictive modelling and economic assessment. Within sub-project 1, we aim to design novel diversified cropping systems and assess their agro-ecological impacts. We are offering a PhD position to be based within the ZALF Research Area 2 Land Use and Governance in the working group Resource-Efficient Cropping Systems for three years (TVL13, 65%) starting from April 2021.

**Responsibilities**

- Design mixed cropping systems with soybean and wheat in a co-design process with farmers
- Work within on-station field experiments and an on-farm landscape experiment (patchCROP)
- Assess agronomic impacts of crop diversification in mixed and patch cropping
- Explore the agro-ecological potentials for reducing pesticides through crop diversification
- Quantify the impact of crop diversification with legumes on the resilience of cropping systems
- Collaborate with PhD students within the project and external partners (University of Bonn, INRAE)
- Contribute to the overarching goals of the research project team
- Publication of results in peer-reviewed scientific journals
Requirements
- Master of science in agronomy, crop science, agro-ecology or agricultural sciences
- First experiences in working with field experiments and farmers (with a systems perspective)
- Good statistical knowledge
- Driving license (advantage)
- Excellent communication skills in English (German is not required)
- Good team work skills and willingness to collaborate across disciplines

Application procedure (deadline etc.)
We offer:
- Interdisciplinary working environment that encourages independence
- Opportunity to collaborate within an international network on legumes and cropping systems (see e.g. partner project www.legumegap.eu)
- Membership in ZALF’s graduate program (incl. benefit from skill training courses)
- Strong institutional commitment to a good work-life balance
- Classification according to the collective agreement of the federal states (TV-L) EG13 with a 65% weekly working time (including special annual payment)
- A collegial and open-minded working atmosphere in a dynamic research institution

Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications from severely disabled persons with equal qualifications are favoured. Please send your application by e-mail including a letter of motivation in English, CV, proof of qualification, transcript of records and certificates, and the names and contact information for three references stating the reference number 94-2020 as one PDF file, max. 5 MB before January 24, 2020 to: Bewerbungen@zalf.de.

Contact
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Dr. Moritz Reckling (Phone +49(0)33432/82-257; moritz.reckling@zalf.de)