

The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) is pleased to announce

Tenure Track Position for an Agro-Ecosystem Modeller (m/f/d) [Reference N° T02-2020]

ZALF is a member of the Leibniz Association and, with its 350 employees, one of the largest research institutions in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. Its mission as a nationally and internationally active research institute is to deliver solutions for an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable agriculture – together with society. As a contribution to overcoming global challenges such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation and resource scarcity, we develop and design crop systems that combine food security with sustainability. For its integrated systems research, ZALF processes complex landscape data with a unique set of experimental methods, new technologies and models as well as socio-economic approaches.

With its Tenure Track System, ZALF aims to recruit excellent scientists with essential expertise by providing a guaranteed transitioning to a permanent contract subject to successful evaluation.

Call description

This [Classic Tenure Track Call](#) invites candidates who have a focus on the development, use and investigation of process-based agro-ecosystem simulation models at the interface of crop and soil processes. As part of the “Ecosystem Modelling” working group, the successful candidate is expected to develop next-generation modelling approaches to capture the full range of genotype x environment x management interactions in the soil-cropping system-atmosphere continuum with a focus on multi-species cropping systems. This includes above- and belowground species interactions and their effect on water, soil organic matter and nutrient dynamics, as well as feedbacks to relevant crop growth and yield processes. In the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security and Agriculture 4.0, the candidate’s research will contribute to impact assessments of environmental or societal change on nitrogen and carbon emissions from, carbon sequestration in or yield performance of cropping systems, focussing in particular on the trade-offs between different sustainability goals and ecosystem services. In addition, the candidate will contribute to related agro-ecosystem modelling topics such as pest and disease impacts on crops or transition zone effects.

The call is addressed to dynamic and highly motivated researchers with a PhD and postdoc research experience in agronomy, vegetation ecology, etc., comprehensive mathematical expertise, as well as profound knowledge in modelling biophysical processes in agro-ecosystems, preferably with respect to crop physiology and/or the turnover of soil organic matter. Candidates must have demonstrated their capacity to independently carry out research, including an excellent publication record, successfully acquired competitive third-party funding, visibility in their respective field of research, and experience in project management and coordination. Previous experience at the interface of modelling and field-scale experimentation is desirable.

The successful candidate will receive a Regular Tenure Track position (2 x 2-3 years) with progress to the subsequent phase subject to successful evaluation. If candidates are not legally eligible for two consecutive fixed-term contracts, they may enter the Fast Tenure Track if the required scientific achievements are fulfilled.

Tenure contracts are generally offered as full-time contracts, with part-time option to allow for the reconciliation of family and career. Salary will follow the guidelines for public employees according to the German TV-L, depending on the personal situation up to the level of E14. The working place is in Müncheberg near Berlin, Germany. The successful candidate will be offered individual options for career support such as a mentoring tandem, courses and trainings as well as variable options to access scientific resources.

ZALF is an equal opportunities employer (audit berufundfamilie® certificate) and specifically encourages female scientists to apply. Applications of disabled applicants with equal qualifications will be favoured.

Application and candidate selection

Application documents must follow the specifications given in the respective guideline available at the ZALF website (www.zalf.de/en/karriere/tenure-track) and include two standardized letters of recommendation of scientists who are familiar with your research accomplishments and academic credentials (template available at www.zalf.de/de/karriere/tenure-track/Documents/20181218_ZALF_TenureTrack_App4_Reference_Letter.docx).

Candidate selection is based on scientific achievements, strategic aspects, and personal suitability. Details on criteria, minimum requirements and evaluation processes can be obtained from the ZALF Tenure Track System guideline, which is an official annex to this call: www.zalf.de/de/karriere/tenure-track/Documents/20181218_ZALF-Tenure_Track_System_Guideline.pdf

Please send your application as a single PDF file to tenuretrack@zalf.de, stating the reference number **T02-2020**.

The deadline for applications is **12 February 2020**.

If you have any questions, please contact: Dr. Ulrike Hagemann (Phone +49(0)33432/82-449; ulrike.hagemann@zalf.de)

For cost reasons, your application documents or extensive publications can only be returned if an adequately stamped envelope is attached.

If you apply, we collect and process your personal data in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the EU GDPR only for the processing of your application and for purposes that result from possible future employment with the ZALF. Your data will be deleted after six months. You can find further information at: www.zalf.de/en/ueber_uns/Pages/Datenschutzerklaerung.aspx