

Job Description

Plant Breeder – Cereals



Limagrain Cereals Research Canada (LCRC) is seeking a full-time plant breeder, based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The successful candidate will participate in all aspects of the LCRC breeding program activities, with a leading role in cultivar development in conjunction with the senior breeder. The position is 'hands on' and field breeding focused. Although molecular breeding knowledge and experience is desirable, it will not be the primary criteria for selecting a suitable candidate.

Company Profile:

LCRC is a new and rapidly growing Canadian company, passionate about using its plant breeding expertise to support the Canadian grains industry. LCRC is a partnership between LIMAGRAIN and CANTERRA SEEDS, bringing together global germplasm, technology and plant breeding knowledge, with deep market awareness and access, to deliver value to Western Canadian growers and their customers. LCRC is a strong supporter of career and personal growth and therefore a great place to further your career in the agricultural sector.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Assist in the development and implementation of strategies to breed new varieties of wheat and other cereals for Western Canada.
- Assist in building, managing and leading the cereals breeding team engaging in breeding, field and greenhouse trials, crossing, and variety purification & maintenance. This includes the design of nurseries and field trials.
- Organize and implement the operational aspects of the breeding project as defined by the senior breeder, including seed and land preparation, planting, plot maintenance, and harvest, pesticide and fertilizer applications, trial evaluations, seed and tissue sampling, processing and packaging, distribution of seed stocks, and preparation of samples for evaluation of grain quality or molecular marker analyses.
- Analyze all data with appropriate tools and propose breeding decisions in agreement with the senior breeder.
- Use molecular markers, doubled haploids, and other modern technologies to rapidly develop commercially competitive and successful varieties.
- Coordinate activities with other affiliated North American breeding programs, and with other international wheat breeding programs of Group Limagrain. Travel in-country and abroad to participate in wheat breeding activities, meetings, and conferences is necessary.
- Participate in collaborations and exchanges with public and private programs involved in cereal breeding and research, including with leading Canadian public breeding programs.
- Supervise and coordinate activities of temporary and seasonal contract labor. Coordinate activities and training to ensure safe operations of equipment and safety of project personnel in accordance with provincial and government guidelines. Maintain all records on safety training and certification of project employees.
- Interact and collaborate with other LCRC employees and associated companies, including growers, seed and product development specialists, plant pathologists, molecular biologists, and others. Develop a good understanding of business challenges as well as internal research resources to be leveraged.
- As a member of a small breeding station team, participate in most tasks conducted on the station, including driving breeding efficiency in field/lab protocols and organization of activities.

Education & experience required:

- PhD, or equivalent experience, in Plant Breeding and Genetics is required.
- Strong demonstrated knowledge in breeding, genetics, agronomy, and application of modern technologies for improvement of cereals is necessary.
- Ability to use software for data analyses, management, presentation and reporting, and general competence in statistics and data management, is required.
- Experience as a plant breeder of wheat or other small grains, preferably in a successful commercial program, is advantageous.
- Knowledge of the target production region, associated biotic and abiotic stresses, and relevant germplasm base would be advantageous.
- Knowledge of cereal chemistry principles and their application to breeding and marketing would be advantageous.
- Strong interpersonal, organizational, and analytical skills are needed.
- Recognition as strong team player.
- Leadership skills and experience in managing people and programs are desired.
- Eager to adapt to various activities and context: from strategic thinking on the breeding scheme to direct operational support to the team in the fields.

We offer an excellent benefits package and salary commensurate with experience.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, but should be submitted by February 24, 2017 for full consideration. The position is available beginning March 2017.

Please send resume and cover letter to jason.reinheimer@limagrain.com