

Job opportunity

(Senior) Scientist Analytics

The increased attention to food safety and sustainability impose more and more restrictions on the agricultural practices, while there is a demand for an increased food supply. Therefore, improving production efficiency in a sustainable way, without causing irreparable damage to our environment or depleting valuable resources, is essential. AgroSavfe has the ambition to contribute to a safer production and healthier food. AgroSavfe is focusing on biological molecules to tackle pests and diseases using camelid binding domains (Agrobodies®), directed against pests' and pathogens' essential molecules, to develop the next generation of biological control agents.

Agrobodies® have the advantage of acting directly and uniquely on the target organisms. As such, Agrobodies® combine a highly specific mode of action with a minimized risk of effects on wildlife, bees, growers and consumers. Agrobodies® can be produced in a cost-effective manner by industrial-scale fermentation and be applied as a spray-on biopesticide or in a seed coating to protect crops and harvested products from infections.

Our first research program has resulted in a series of Agrobodies® with anti-fungal activity, against a broad range of fungi, as demonstrated by the protection of plants in lab assays and under greenhouse and field conditions. We are now moving these Agrobodies® through the development phase, focusing on the commercialization of biofungicides for applications on fruits, vegetables and other crops.

The challenges we face are substantial but so are the rewards, as we are taking a whole new approach for the development of biopesticides. AgroSavfe is a highly dynamic company welcoming creative, innovative entrepreneurs and providing ample opportunities for personal development, in an open, positive team spirit.

. The manufacturing group at AgroSavfe is looking for an experienced (Senior) Scientist who will be leading the Analytics function, responsible for the development and implementation of appropriate analytical methods as well as the in-depth characterization of Agrobodies® development candidates.

AgroSavfe Role Profile

Role title: (Senior) Scientist Analytics
Reports to: Head Manufacturing Platform
Location: Ghent, Belgium

Role purpose

Lead the development and implementation of analytical methods, interacting with Upstream and Downstream Processing and Formulation teams and external service providers, in support of the development of a large-scale manufacturing process for specific Agrobodies® as well as the development of stable formulations.

Job opportunity

Accountabilities

- Responsible for the planning, coordination, approach and results within the scope of assigned project activities;
- Uses state-of-the-art equipment to develop and validate analytical methods suitable for Agrobody® characterization (including control of the purity, quality and consistency of Agrobody® batches, stability/stress testing, the identification of degradation pathways and product variants, the detection and identification of process related impurities, ...);
- Applies the analytical methods in support of the development of a large-scale manufacturing process for specific Agrobodies® as well as the development of stable formulations;
- People management: drives recruitment, training, development and performance management of (senior) research associates and researchers;
- Interacting with external contract organizations as required in the context of outsourced analyses;
- Strongly interacts with the Upstream and Downstream Processing and Formulation teams to streamline the work flows;
- Represents the Analytics function in (project) meetings;
- Reports about the results and progress to the Head of Manufacturing Platform, Product Development Manager, project team, and/or external parties in a clear and concise manner; provides strategic guidance where needed;
- Prepares reports, summaries, manuscripts and other documents as required;
- Analytical activities to support the registration process.

Knowledge, experience and capabilities

Critical knowledge

- Hold a PhD or MSc in Biology, Biotechnology, (Bio)Chemistry, or Bio-engineering;
- Deep knowledge of scalable production technologies applied in the development of innovative (protein based) products, their scale-up and manufacture, with specific emphasis on the analytics and product characterization.

Critical experience

- Have experience in analytical method development/validation and the physico-chemical and functional analysis and characterization of proteins;
- Experience of working in fundamental areas of biological product development technology, and translating these into the manufacturing of innovative, high quality products;
- Previous experience in Ag-biotech is a plus;
- Experience in quality assurance or quality control is an advantage;
- People leadership of a team of high performing technology professionals;
- Relevant industry experience (6 - 10 years).

Critical technical, professional and personal capabilities

Job opportunity

- Be a team player, enthusiastic and flexible, able to build bridges between groups;
- Ability to inspire and motivate others;
- Ability to build strong networks;
- Proven sense for initiative, detail and scientific rigor;
- Ability to manage different work-streams simultaneously with strict timelines for delivery;
- Excellent reporting and communication skills (fluent in English, written and spoken).

Critical leadership capabilities

- Creates an environment that supports creativity and sparks innovation;
- Is dedicated to meeting the expectations and requirements of internal and external customers;
- Gains commitment of individuals and stakeholders in a compelling way;
- Collaborates effectively across organizational and functional boundaries, and complement internal expertise with external technologies.

Critical success factors, key challenges & responsibilities

- Establish validated analytical processes for Agrobody®-based crop protection products that meet the industry high standards;
- Create and protect company IP that secures competitive advantage;
- Driving the development of functional excellence within the Manufacturing Platform;
- Management of a small in-house team for the development and application of analytical processes;
- Relationship with service providers for fermentation and downstream processing.

Our offering

We offer you a challenging job in an exciting environment, working for top innovators in the Agro-Biotech industry, developing the next generation biologicals. You can be part of a very dynamic, young and growing team in a highly innovative environment. Your input is highly appreciated. Of course we offer you a fitting compensation package.

Interested?

Please apply by e-mail and send your CV and motivational letter to HR@agrosavfe.com.

For more information visit the AgroSavfe web site: www.agrosavfe.com.