



2019-IPR-D5-FGIV-013231

FG IV - Project Officer – Advanced statistical data analysis for regional crop yield forecasting**Position for:****FGIV- Project Officer**

As the science and knowledge service of the Commission, the mission of DG Joint Research Centre is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

The JRC is located in 5 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain). Further information is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/>

The vacancy is in the Directorate for Sustainable Resources. (in Ispra, Italy). Its mission is to provide independent scientific evidence to support the development, implementation, evaluation and coherence of EU policies, mainly in the areas of agriculture and rural development, development cooperation, environment and climate change, the blue economy and fisheries, the bio economy, industry and trade.

As part of the Food Security Unit, which contributes scientific development towards a more effective and efficient management of EU policies related to agriculture and food security, the candidate will contribute to crop monitoring and yield forecasting activities. The candidate will have a research portfolio and operational duties.

The research focuses on advanced data analysis techniques to develop and test statistical (regression and/or probabilistic) models to forecast crop yields at subnational and national level throughout Europe. Sensitivity analysis and rigorously assessing model performance will be essential. Grid-based meteorological, earth observation and crop model data serve as inputs for the statistical modelling. Methodologies to aggregate efficiently the results of statistical models and forecasts from subnational to national levels will need to be developed. Specific attention will be given to isolating drivers of yield loss and the impacts of extreme events along the crop cycle.

Operational duties consist of contributing to analyses and national yield forecasts as published regularly in the JRC MARS Bulletin (<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/mars/bulletins>).

Qualifications:**Essential:**

- Completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma and at least five years professional experience in a field relevant to the position,
- Alternatively a doctoral diploma in agronomy, agro-meteorology, agricultural engineering, statistics, remote sensing, environmental modeling, or a related field;
- Extensive knowledge/experience in advanced statistics and data analysis (using e.g. R), statistical forecasting, big data analytics, or neural networks, and programming skills (e.g.

	<p>Python, C/C++);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge of European agriculture. <p>Asset:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and experience in intra-season yield forecasting and agro-meteorological analysis; • Good writing skills and scientific publishing of research outcomes is encouraged. Relevant publications should be highlighted; • Ability to work in a team in a multi-cultural environment. <p>Good knowledge of spoken and written English (B2) is required. The knowledge of another community language would be an advantage.</p>
Directorate Unit	<p>Sustainable Resources Food Security</p> <p>Further information: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-area/agriculture-and-food-security</p>
Indicative duration	<p>36 months initial contract with possible renewals up to maximum 6 years</p>
JRC Site Country	<p>Ispra Italy</p>
Rules and eligibility	<p>The candidate must be on a valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff.</p> <p>If you are not in any valid EPSO reserve list for Function Group IV contract staff, you can still apply by following these steps.</p> <p>You express your interest by applying to the CAST Permanent or to the permanent JRC Call for researchers.</p> <p>1. CAST Permanent: open-ended selection procedure to create a pool of candidates from which the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union (EU) can recruit contract agents. https://epso.europa.eu/documents/2240_en</p> <p>2. JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research: open-ended selection procedure to create a pool of candidates from which mainly the JRC can recruit contract agents FGIV as researchers. Details available at the link below: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/vacancies/function-group-IV-researchers</p> <p>Only then you can apply for this specific position, through http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX</p> <p>Auxiliary contract staff: https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/temporary-positions/contract-staff-members</p>

	<p>Article 3b of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union applies: the actual period of employment within the Commission under this type of contract, including any period under renewal, shall not exceed 6 years.</p>
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Please note that in case a high number of applications is received only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.