



2015-IPR-H-000-6055

EU sugar and sugar beet biomass yield forecasts

Position for:

Trainee

Short description of activity:

Key objectives of the AGRI4CAST group in the Unit for Monitoring Agricultural Resources (MARS) include the provision and improvement of crop yield forecasts at European and Member State level. The group's monthly Bulletins and ad-hoc reports are used by DG AGRI and DG ESTAT as important ingredients for market analyses and CAP management decisions, as well as for the European contribution to FAO's Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). Moreover, the Bulletins, which are publicly available, are increasingly sought after by private and other public market analysts. The crops covered are wheat, barley, rice, maize, rye, triticale, rapeseed, sunflower, potato and sugar beet.

Sugar beet forecasts, thus far, are restricted to sugar beet biomass. Opportunities are there to improve these forecasts and to extend them to sugar, the most important marketable product in sugar beets.

The objective of the proposed training is to assess methods to improve sugar beet biomass yield forecasts and to predict beet sugar yields at the level of the EU and key producing regions within the EU.

The project will involve tasks as: (i) assessing the availability of historical information on planting dates and sugar yields at country and sub-country level, (ii) assessing statistical models (e.g. multiple regression) relating historical beet sugar records to e.g. temperature, rainfall, soil moisture, and (iii) process-based biophysical crop modelling using the MCYFS BioMA framework currently in use at AGRI4CAST.

Qualifications:

Essential.

The ideal candidate must have:

- Agronomic background, and specialised training in agro-meteorology, crop physiology

	<p>or related fields;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge in statistical analysis; - Good knowledge of spoken and written English (B2 level). <p><u>Advantage.</u> Knowledge in crop forecasting and biophysical modelling will be an advantage.</p> <p>Training in the use of the BioMA modelling framework will be provided.</p> <p><u>For general eligibility requirements, please read the rules governing the traineeship scheme of the JRC:</u></p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/working-with-us/jobs/temporary-positions/jrc-trainees</p>
Institute/Directorate Unit	<p>Institute for Environment and Sustainability Monitoring Agricultural ResourceS (MARS) Unit AGRI4CAST group</p> <p>Further information: http://mars.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mars/About-us/AGRI4CAST</p>
Indicative duration	5 months
Preferred starting date	as soon as possible
JRC Site	Ispra
Country	Italy
<u>JRC contact details</u>	<p>For any technical problems with your application, please contact: JRC-ESRA@ec.europa.eu</p>