







IRTA is a research institute owned by the Government of Catalonia ascribed to the Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda. IRTA is one of the CERCA centers of excellence of the Catalan Research System. Our purpose is to contribute to the modernization, competitiveness and sustainable development of agriculture, food and aquaculture sectors, the supply of healthy and quality foods for consumers and, generally, improving the welfare and prosperity of the society. We are granted by the EU with the [HRS4R](#) distinction for “HR Excellence in Research” and thus we offer a rich environment for knowledge development and exchange where to develop a scientific career, and possibilities for professional promotion according to the attained achievements. Check our initiatives [here](#).

Postdoc in “LCA of Regenerative Agriculture” for the Sustainability in Biosystems Program

[ref. 150/23]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Postdoc to conduct research on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of regenerative agriculture (agroecological practices improving soil carbon sequestration, biodiversity and ecosystem services) in the [Sustainability in Biosystems Program](#). This postdoc position will focus on the methodological improvement of LCA applied to food products, particularly regarding soil carbon modelling and accounting, biodiversity and ecosystem services, to better represent potential benefits of agroecological practices including regenerative agriculture. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities related to the challenges of the ecological transition of food systems.

-  Head of the research program: Dr Ralph Rosenbaum
Program’s key researcher/s for this position: Dr Montse Nuñez & Dr Ralph Rosenbaum
-  Job location: [IRTA Torre Marimon](#)
-  Full-time position: 37.5 h/week
-  Terms of appointment: full-time position for 3 years with the possibility to extend it for one more year.
-  Gross Annual Salary: category F (33,247€) or E (37,179€) – to be resolved according to the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.
-  Employee benefits: 22 vacation days, 3 days of family & work conciliation, 45h of personal time, Friday afternoon off, Compressed Summer schedule from 15/06 to 15/09, Work and Family conciliation schedule.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Conduct technical tasks in several projects to integrate ecosystem services, biodiversity, soil health, soil carbon sequestration and the reduction of carbon losses soil-to-atmosphere into LCA of agrifood products, including:
 - Supervise data collection and management from experimental and commercial crop fields, livestock farms, including statistical analysis.
 - Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams involved in the long-term experiments and related projects and interpret their data to develop or improve LCI datasets and LCIA metrics.

- Apply techniques for upscaling from experimental pilot-level data to relevant decision scopes and evaluate the quality and scientific validity of the resulting datasets and indicators for regional to global scale applications.
- Apply the new data and metrics to differentiate among agricultural management practices in the Mediterranean.
- Write technical and scientific reports and publications.
- Collaborate with international research groups and centres active in the topics of the offered position.
- Participate in the international harmonisation of methods for carbon accounting and removal (e.g., carbon removal certification) and LCA harmonisation initiatives (e.g., UNEP's Life Cycle Initiative).
- Support carbon accounting and modelling tasks in LCI database development by IRTA's LCA team.
- Communicate and disseminate knowledge and results to the agrifood sector, relevant public decision makers, and the large public, particularly consumers, in oral and written forms.
- Interact with public and private stakeholders.

Required qualifications and experience.

- PhD in Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Agricultural Sciences, or a related discipline.
- Experience in applying LCA to the agrifood sector.
- Experience in carbon accounting and modelling.
- Proven research skills: literature review, data analysis, scientific article writing.
- Dissemination skills: presentation/communication skills, and technical writing.

Desirable requirements

- Knowledge of soil properties and dynamics (soil (micro)biology, nutrient recycling).
- Experience in developing LCA metrics (inventory or impact assessment models) or other tools that require upscaling and simplification.
- Knowledge of GIS.
- Skills in using advanced stats software and programming languages (R, Python).
- Practical experience with LCA software SIMAPRO and databases (e.g., ecoinvent, Agribalyse).
- User knowledge of EU's Product Environmental Footprint Initiative.
- Experience in international projects.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, including ability to work as part of an international team, and capacity to work independently.

Languages

- Proficiency in English, both spoken and written.
- Knowledge of Spanish and/or Catalan is valued.

Application process

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via our [Recruitment Platform](#) to the job post with reference 150/23 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:
26/12/2023**

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. 150/23 “Postdoc in “LCA of Regenerative Agriculture” for the Sustainability in Biosystems Program”

48 natural days	Publication and diffusion of the job advertisement on IRTA’s website, EURAXESS Jobs, social media and other specific recruitment places.
5 following working days	Distribution of the pre-selected CVs which matching eligibility criteria to the Recruitment Committee. Communication via e-mail with the not pre-selected candidates who will not be further included in the process.
20 following working days	Recruitment Committee: - Communication via e-mail with the not-selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee. - Interview with selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee. - Accord of the Recruitment Committee stating the selected candidate and detailed reasoning for the decline of the rest of the candidates. - Communication via e-mail with the interviewed and not-selected candidates
10 following working days	Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.
Early 2024	Start of employment

IRTA guarantees an open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment process (OTM-R) to all registered candidacies avoiding thus any bias on gender, origin, age, ideology, or other circumstances that could be discriminatory. Candidates in a situation of social exclusion will be considered in the first place.

Please know that if you are the chosen candidate and you are from a country which does not belong to the UE, IRTA’s Human Resources Department will support you to get the residence and working permits.