

*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 “ecosystem services in LCA” for the Sustainability in Biosystems Program







Research related to project OVIHUEC.DAT

[ref. 126/24]

*IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Postdoc to conduct research on Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of agrifood systems in the [Sustainability in Biosystems Program](#). This postdoc position will focus on conducting research and innovation activities related to the challenges of the ecological transition of food systems, particularly regarding the methodological improvement of (agroecological, agrifood) LCA to better consider environmental services of sustainable land management practices.*

*The successful candidate will be working, among others, on an exciting and stimulating project on extensive livestock farming and pastoralism. At a time when rural regions in EU developed countries are being abandoned, there is a need to promote and revalue extensive farming systems, as a strategy for the sustainable development of rural areas.*

*The objectives of the successful candidate will focus on improving the LCA method to integrate environmental services, such as the prevention of forest fires, the protection of biodiversity, and soil health.*

-  Head of the Program: Dr Ralph Rosenbaum  
Program’s key researcher/s for this position: Dr Montse Núñez
-  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 1 year extra.
-  Gross Annual Salary: category F (33,248€) or E (37,180€) – 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 the Spanish project OVIHUEC.DAT to integrate provision of ecosystem services and promotion of biodiversity into LCA.
- Supervise data collection and management, including statistical analysis.

- 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 quantitatively assess environmental impacts and benefits of agrifood systems.
- Work closely with all project partners.
- Ensure timely execution of all tasks involving IRTA and participate in the respective technical meetings.
- Support accounting of environmental services in LCAs carried out by IRTA's LCA team.
- Write technical and scientific reports.
- Interact with public and private stakeholders.
- Support knowledge transfer and research dissemination to the sector, relevant public decision makers, and large public.
- Contribute to the teamwork and team-spirit in the Sustainability in Biosystems research program, fostering collaboration and integration activities.

## Required qualifications and experience.

- PhD in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Agriculture Sciences, or a related discipline
- Experience in modelling biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Proven research skills: literature review, data analysis, scientific article writing.
- Dissemination skills: presentation/communication skills, and technical writing.

## Desirable requirements

- Knowledge of GIS
- Experience in accounting and modelling carbon fluxes.
- Skills in using advanced stats software and programming languages (R, Python)
- Experience in developing LCA metrics or other tools that require upscaling and simplification.
- 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 126/24 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:  
08/09/2024**

### Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. 126/24 Postdoc in “ecosystem services in LCA” for the Sustainability in Biosystems Program

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<b>48 natural days</b>	Publication and diffusion of the job advertisement on IRTA’s website, EURAXESS Jobs, social media and other specific recruitment places.
<b>5 following working days</b>	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.
<b>20 following working days</b>	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
<b>10 following working days</b>	Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.
<b>Second trimester 2024</b>	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.*