

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](#).

Researcher in Precision Orchard Management on pip and stone fruit crops (AGROLABS DIGITALS)

[ref. 129/24]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Researcher with a PhD related to the fields of Pomology and Precision Agriculture on fruit crops to join the AGROLABS DIGITALS project. We invite ambitious candidates with relevant research experience to conduct research and innovation activities on Precision Orchard Management to focus on the development, validation and implementation of tools, methods and strategies enabling precise orchard management including pruning, crop load, fertilizer, interrow cover crop and harvest management. This will involve the use of new digital technologies including IoT, Remote and Proximal Sensing, Computer Vision, IA among others. Contribution to the development and implementation of Decision Support Systems and Orchard Digital Twins will also be part of the research line.

AGROLABS DIGITALS is a pioneer research and innovation project of IRTA that aims to boost the Agrifood sector with the digital transformation both in plant and animal production. The project involves main actions: i) the creation of infrastructures for testing and experimentation of new digital technologies and ii) a platform of data and digital services, a data space, that will be made available to the main agricultural sectors, universities and other research and innovation institutes. The testing and experimentation facilities will be deployed in 10 different IRTA sites across Catalonia involving the Plant and Animal Production Areas of IRTA. In specific, they will focus on fruit and field crop sectors, postharvest of fruit and vegetables, swine, bovine and aquaculture.

-  Head of the Program: Dr Luis Asín ([Fruit Production Program](#))
Program's key researchers: Joan Bonany, Jaume Lordan, Lluís González, Miquel Peris, Estanis Torres
-  Job location: [Fruitcentre \(Lleida\)](#) and [Mas Badia \(La Tallada d'Empordà\)](#)
-  Full-time position: 37.5 h/week
-  Terms of appointment: permanent full-time permanent position or full-time tenure track position subject to the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.
Gross annual salary: 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 days, Friday afternoon off, Compressed Summer schedule from 15/06 to 15/09, Conciliation schedule.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Design, supervise and lead internal and external research projects on precision orchard management.
- Lead and actively contribute to fund rising through the preparation and submission of project proposals for public competitive calls and for contracts with the private sector, as well reporting process, such as writing progress and final reports of research activities.
- Supervise and contribute to the design, implementation and analysis of experiments and field tests, and their subsequent reporting.
- Update continuously the scientific knowledge to be positively transferred to stakeholders and end-users.
- Help positioning the Fruit Production Scientific Program as a group of excellence through regular peer-reviewed publications, contributions at national and international congresses.
- Supervision of PhD and postdoctoral researchers.
- Collaborate with the teamwork and team-spirit in the Fruit Production Scientific Program, fostering collaboration and integration activities.
- Work in close collaboration with other teams of IRTA, as well as with external academic, institutional and industrial partners.

Required qualifications and experience:

- Ph.D. in Pomology, Agronomy, Crop Production or related field preferably with a focus on precision agriculture an international scope and applied approach regarding forecasting models.
- Postdoctoral experience in laboratories of international recognition.
- Proven research experience in Pomology or Agronomy preferably in pip or stone fruit tree crops, with a special focus on precision agriculture, and a record of scientific publications in this field.
- Mathematical and computational skills required for precision agriculture.
- Proven experience in project management, with good organizational and coordination skills.
- Proven research skills: experience on project proposal writing, literature review, experimental design and implementation, data analysis, scientific article writing.
- Proven dissemination skills: presentation/communication skills, and technical writing.
- Proven capacity to successfully develop collaborative research links with national and international research organizations, and the ability to interact closely with private companies.
- Proven capacity with modelling tools (Stella, Regression analysis, degree-day models, Mechanistic models, programming language for statistical computing).

Desirable requirements:

- Full driving license for Europe and travelling availability.
- Good communicative skills and client-oriented thinking and working.
- Expertise in methodological approaches to develop empirical and mechanistic models.
- Advanced user of Excel and R or equivalent programs.

Languages

- Proficiency in English
- Catalan and Spanish are valued

Application process

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via our [Recruitment Platform](#) to the job post with reference 129/24 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:
29/08/2024**

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. 129/24 Researcher in Precision Orchard Management on pip and stone fruit crops (AGROLABS DIGITALS)

37 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.
End of 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.

