



**Post-doctoral Fellowship in Horticultural Science**  
**Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences**  
**Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences**

The University of the Free State invites applications for a postdoctoral research fellowship in the Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. This postdoctoral opportunity is jointly funded by the Directorate Research Development of the university and Sandvetpecans, South Africa. This fellowship is for a full-time position for two years (2015-2016) depending on research progress. The closing date for the application is 20 March 2015.

Pecan nuts (*Carya illinoensis*) gained popularity due to the growth in the international nut market and necessitates a molecular study that will aid in future breeding programs and micro-propagation of clonal pecan plants. The objective of the study will be to investigate different micro-propagation techniques and to find the best method for propagating commercially important pecan cultivars. Techniques such as direct regeneration, organogenesis and somatic embryogenesis will be used to find the best most economical way to propagate disease free plants that are true to cultivar for the pecan industry of South Africa. These micro-propagated plants will then be evaluated for nursery and orchard performances. The success of the study is of importance to keep the pecan industry of South Africa sustainable and to stay competitive in the export markets.

The fellowship will be tenable in the Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences (Agricultural Building, Fakulteits Road) at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. The value of the fellowship is R250 000 per annum: R220 000 fellowship plus R30 000 running expense (non-taxable). The commencement of the fellowship is from April 2015.

The successful candidate should have a PhD in Horticulture/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Plant Science with specialization in micro propagation / plant propagation of horticultural crops.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- Fellowships are open to South African and foreign nationals for full-time research at the University of the Free State.
- PhD (must have graduated within the last five years)
- To enable outstanding doctoral graduates to obtain experience in industry related micro-propagation and molecular biology research.
- Research and innovation at a higher education institution.
- Fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis, taking into account the applicants' academic achievements, publication outputs and research potential.
- Successful applicants may not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the award.
- Successful applicants must be able to relocate to the University of the Free State during the tenure of the award. This is a residential fellowship: the successful applicant is required to spend 80% of his/her postdoctoral period at the University of the Free State.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

- Motivation letter, articulating the applicant's career ambitions and scholarly motivation, as well as details of her/his major scholarly/ academic accomplishments to date.
- Full Curriculum Vitae (CV) including a list of all research publications.
- 1-2 page proposal detailing the proposed postdoctoral research.
- Full transcripts of academic record.
- Copy of Doctoral degree certificate.
- Copy of ID document (copy of passport in the case of non-South African applicants)

The successful applicant will be required to publish at least 3 articles per year in DHET / IBSS / ISI – accredited journals.

Further information can be obtained from, and applications submitted to, Dr GM Coetzer

**Commencement of duties:** 1 April 2015

**Closing date:** 20 March 2015

**Enquiries:** Dr GM Coetzer

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