Post-doctoral fellowship Opportunity in Agricultural sciences with specialization in Foodomics

Boreal Ecosystem Research Initiative, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Corner Brook, Canada.

Position background and summary:
As indicated in the Province’s “Way Forward”, approximately 10% of the food consumed in the Province is locally produced whereas, 90% is imported from mainland. The goal highlighted in the “Way Forward” is to double food production by 2022 to move one step forward in achieving food self-sufficiency in the province. Doubling food self-sufficiency will require vertical expansion in crop production, livestock and other farmed products, for example increase secondary processing or value addition of those commodities which will generate 500 employment opportunities per year throughout the province. In order to achieve this, the farming industry needs labor with the requisite expertise, experience and knowledge. This deficit in knowledge, skills and expertise limit the capacity of farmers in the province to diversify their production output, value added products and consequently the agriculture sector in the province. Additionally, Association of new Canadian’s “Food Truck project” provides a greater potential as former refugees with experience and skills in developing value added and secondary processing products on the food truck. Some of these former refugees have the skills and desire to develop their own food-based business. This is an opportunity to support and foster entrepreneurship in former refugees with their existing skill-set, which could be an added positive outcome from this project. This project will also provide an opportunity to engage the public, interest groups, processors, farmers and underrepresented communities.

Duties and responsibilities:
The successful candidate will work with the Association of New Canadians, Scientists at Memorial University, Farmers, Advisors from the Provincial Government, Secondary Food Processors and Refugees to develop innovative food products and/or production processes, conduct product analysis, foster greater collaborations/engagement/outreach between the groups, report preparation and other activities deemed necessary to complete the project.
The successful candidate is expected to generate peer-reviewed publications in top-tier scientific journals, be able to supervise undergraduate and graduate students, and serve as Co-PI on future proposals.

Preferred qualifications:
PhD in Agricultural sciences, Biochemistry, Biology, Food Science, Food Technology, Food Chemistry or other relevant discipline with specialization in Foodomics. The candidate must have strong analytical skills, monitoring equipment and developing protocols to carryout secondary food processing and value addition. Experience with mass spectrometry and chromatography, conducting research experiments under controlled environment, statistics and database management including, but not limited to skills in SAS/Minitab, R, XLSTATS or equivalent, outreach and engagement activities are required. Proven track record of creativity/innovation in research. Team management, report writing, maintaining funder and research partner relationships, proposal writing skills and experience are beneficial skills for this opportunity.

Project support:
This is a two-year position with a one-year trial period. Successful candidates will be paid $50,000 per annum (University benefits package is not included). Please send a letter of interest, complete CV including publication list. Indicate in your cover letter secondary food processing or food development related expertise, team management/outreach activities, specific analytical and statistical expertise and experience and how these fit with the job responsibilities and preferred qualification for this position. Please submit your cover letter and complete contact information for at least 3 academic references by Sep. 30, 2019. The position will remain open until filled and is contingent on funding.

Please send your information via e-mail in pdf format to mcheema@grenfell.mun.ca

For further information relating to this position, please contact Dr. Mumtaz Cheema; mcheema@grenfell.mun.ca or Dr. Raymond Thomas; rthomas@grenfell.mun.ca

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