



## CIHEAM MONTPELLIER

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **Recruitment of a Research Engineer in Agricultural Economics**

One-year full-time contract, renewable for up to 3 years

The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM Montpellier), one of the four institutes of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), is an intergovernmental organization whose mission is the development of higher education and lifelong learning, research and cooperation in the Mediterranean area. Within the scope of the NATAE and EXCEL4MED projects, CIHEAM Montpellier offers a position of a Research Engineer.

#### **CONTEXT**

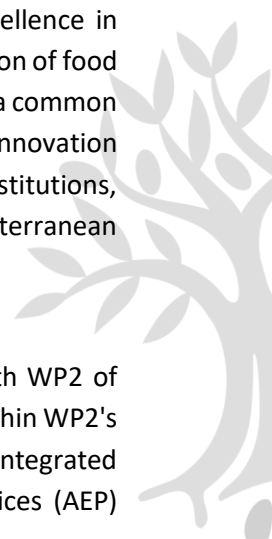
We are seeking a highly motivated and skilled researcher to take on an exceptional role working across two groundbreaking projects, 50% NATAE (Fostering Agro-ecological Transition in North Africa, under the project number 101084647) and 50% EXCEL4MED (Excellence hub in green technologies: Introducing innovation ecosystems in the Mediterranean food value chain, under the project number 101087147). These two projects are funded under the prestigious Horizon Europe programme, representing a significant opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research and environmental conservation efforts. In this unique and exciting position, you will have the privilege of splitting your time evenly between two innovative initiatives that address pressing global challenges:

NATAE is a four-year project that takes a multi-actor and interdisciplinary approach to drive the agro-ecological transition in North Africa. Working closely with 22 partners from academic institutes, international organizations, NGOs, and technical institutes across Europe and North Africa, you will immerse yourself in a dynamic research environment. Your role will involve conducting research in agronomics, sociology, and economics, with a focus on assessing agro-ecological practices in North African agro-ecosystems. You will also participate in Multi-Actor Labs (MALs), engaging with stakeholders to co-create and co-learn, ultimately informing policies and strategies for sustainable agricultural practices. NATAE seeks to identify, evaluate, and promote the best combinations of agro-ecological practices in the region while fostering knowledge exchange through a Mediterranean agro-ecological network.

The excellence hub EXCEL4MED is an initiative to strengthen Mediterranean innovation excellence in innovation ecosystems focusing on the production of nutritious food products and the valorization of food industrial side-streams. It is a cross-border collaboration between Greece, Malta and France on a common strategy on strengthening the Mediterranean food added-value chains. EXCEL4MED innovation ecosystems will be interconnected with umbrella company organizations, research institutions, governmental bodies and societal actors that will be mutually reinforcing each other in a Mediterranean context and together will raise the level of innovation excellence in their regional fabric.

#### **ROLE**

The Research Engineer (RE) will play a pivotal role in two projects, combining tasks from both WP2 of NATAE project and WP4 of EXCEL4MED project. In the context of NATAE project, specifically within WP2's Task 2.3, the RE's primary responsibility will be to contribute to the development of an integrated modeling chain decision tool aimed at optimizing the performance of agro-ecological practices (AEP)



combinations in various farming systems and scenarios. This task aims to make the modeling chain adaptable and applicable across diverse living labs, accommodating their biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional diversity. The RE will focus on enhancing the flexibility of this modeling chain for easy application in all living labs, enabling the identification of trade-offs among different AEP adoption indicators. Additionally, the RE will actively participate in project meetings and workshops to ensure the seamless execution of the task, and will produce a comprehensive report as part of the project's deliverables.

In parallel, the RE will also contribute to WP4 of EXCEL4MED project, which involves the development of a cross-border joint research and innovation strategy aligned with strategic priorities. Specifically, the RE will be responsible for organizing, monitoring, and overseeing activities within the Maltese Living-Lab under the guidance of the project's Principal Investigator (PI). This role extends to facilitating data collection and participating in the Cost-Benefit analysis for the Maltese ecosystem in Task 4.1, utilizing bio-economic modeling techniques. A detailed report stemming from these activities will be a crucial component of the respective project deliverables.

## **ACTIVITIES AND TASKS**

### ➤ NATAE project:

- Data analysis from the LLs in Tunisia and Algeria;
- Prepare the database, calibrate the modelling chain, and perform simulations for the LLs in Algeria and Tunisia;
- Trade-off analysis of agro-ecological practices in the above LLs;
- Participate in the deliverables D2.1: NATAE modelling chain and data base and D2.2: Trade-off analysis of current & foresight scenarios tested at LL and RL levels;

### ➤ EXCEL4MED project:

- Collaborate with the Maltese LL partners for the collection of the necessary data;
- Support the PI for the organization and the monitoring of the Maltese Living-Lab;
- Participate in the Cost-Benefit analysis of Task 4.1 via the use of DAHBSIM model including calibration and scenario simulation;
- Trade off analysis of different innovation practices;
- Provide regular short progress reports on the advancement of the WPs and contributions to the corresponding project deliverable 4.1 "Report on the estimation of cost and revenue generation".

## **REQUIREMENTS**

The ER candidate must meet the following requirements:

- Master 2 in Economics or Agronomy;
- Excellent knowledge of data analysis;
- Knowledge on farm-typology and bio-economic modelling;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.



## **PERSONAL SKILLS REQUIRED**

- Excellent organizational skills, ability to establish and maintain lasting and constructive formal relationships;
- Dynamism, reactivity and autonomy;
- Excellent skills of writing and synthesis (work plans, technical reports and other acts and management, ordinary correspondence, notes, messages, summary sheets);
- Good teamwork abilities, particularly in a multicultural and multi-disciplinary context;
- Ability to propose solutions to problems and critical issues that might arise during the project.

## **JOB SPECIFICATIONS**

- Contract duration: fixed term contract of 12 months' renewable twice (up to 36 months);
- Full-time (35h per week);
- 5 weeks' annual leave;
- Salary: According to experience;
- Location: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (Route de Mende, Montpellier, France) with occasional travels in different partner countries.

Contact for any information on the project: [belhouchette@iamm.fr](mailto:belhouchette@iamm.fr)

CIHEAM Montpellier is committed to a policy of non-discrimination and gender. Position open to people with disabilities.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

**The application must be written in English and include a CV and a cover letter** concerning the missions defined in the job description.

Deadline for Submission: **31<sup>st</sup> of October 2023**

Selection Committee: **2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023**

Starting Date: **6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023**

The application file must be sent by email with the following object "NATAE & EXCEL4MED RE candidate Vacancy" to [emploi@iamm.fr](mailto:emploi@iamm.fr)

