

## PhD position (UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER)

**Bewerbungsfrist: 21.01.2021**

The *Institute of Geobotany* (group of Zoological Biodiversity) invites applications for the position of a **PhD candidate (m/f/d)** in agroecology/landscape ecology (Salary Scale 13 TV-L „FwN 11 65 %) to be appointed on the 1st April 2021. The position is limited to 3 years.

The Institute of Geobotany at the Leibniz University of Hannover is coordinating the multi-actor Horizon 2020 project UPSCALE: Upscaling the benefits of push-pull technology for sustainable intensification of agriculture in East Africa (<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/861998>).

Closing the yield gap in African smallholder agriculture is a critical challenge, which must be met in order to achieve food security goals for millions of farmers. Nature-based solutions that harness the benefits of biodiversity for productive, low input and climate-resilient agriculture are promising avenues for sustainable intensification. Through its success in staple crops, the push-pull technology in mixed livestock-cereal farms in Eastern Africa is an essential discovery for food security and environmentally friendly agricultural management. The UPSCALE project, a consortium of 18 European and African partners, aims to harness the potential of push-pull as a key to sustainable intensification in sub-Saharan Africa.

### Responsibilities

The position will involve entomological field work on smallholder push-pull farms in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda or Ethiopia, during which the candidate will work individually and in close cooperation with African and European partners in a large inter-, transdisciplinary and international project. A particular focus will be on understanding the consequences of upscaling push-pull technology across African landscapes in the face of changing human and environmental conditions. Openness to and experience with participatory research approaches with smallholder farmers are advantageous. The candidate is expected to contribute to project deliverables and publish results in international journals.

### Requirements

We are seeking a highly motivated PhD student with interest and expertise in agroecology, tropical ecology and landscape ecology. Candidates must have a scientific degree (Master, Diploma or equivalent) in ecology, biology, environmental science, agriculture or related fields and show abilities in several of the following: entomological field research (e.g. plant-insect interactions), insect (and bird) identification, experience with GIS, statistical data analysis using R, and scientific writing in English. A driver's license, good physical fitness and fluency in English are required.

### What we offer

The position will be located in the group of Zoological Biodiversity at the Institute of Geobotany. We offer membership in an international research group in close collaboration with international partners and a structured graduate program. The city of Hannover is a vibrant, understated community with a cosmopolitan and friendly lifestyle. As an equal opportunities employer, Leibniz University Hannover intends to promote women and men. For this reason, suitably qualified women are specifically invited to apply. Preference will be given to equally qualified applicants with disabilities. For any queries please contact Prof. Emily Poppenborg Martin (Email: : [poppenborg-martin@geobotanik.uni-hannover.de](mailto:poppenborg-martin@geobotanik.uni-hannover.de)).

Please submit your application (including a cover letter, short summary of research interests, CV, a list of publications if available, copies of certificates, and the names and email addresses of two potential referees) under the subject "PhD position UPSCALE" until **21st January 2021** written in English and merged into a single pdf file to Email: [poppenborg-martin@geobotanik.uni-hannover.de](mailto:poppenborg-martin@geobotanik.uni-hannover.de)

or alternatively via postal mail to: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover, Institute of Geobotany, Prof. Emily Poppenborg Martin, Nienburger Str. 17, 30167 Hannover, GERMANY

<http://www.uni-hannover.de/jobs>

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