



**Job title:** Microbial Biocontrol product development  
**Position:** Research Scientist  
**Location:** Bioecopest – Technological Park of Sardinia – Tramariglio – 07041 Alghero – Italy  
**Duration:** 24 months (further extension can be considered at the end of the project)  
**Closing date:** 10.11.2024

### Summary

We are recruiting a **research scientist** for the development of a novel microbial biocontrol agent, working on the project entitled “*SARDUS BACTER: Development of the first biopesticide based on Brevibacillus laterosporus strains isolated from Sardinian soils*”, financially supported by Sardegna Ricerche, Programma Regionale di Sviluppo 2020 - 2024 – Aiuti per progetti di ricerca e sviluppo – Settore Agroindustria.

Aim of the project is to select *B. laterosporus* strains showing the most promising plant protection activity, the suitability for formulations and field applications as biocontrol agent. The focus is on the evaluation of pesticidal efficacy and on the identification of genetic and molecular traits able to modulate the host-microbe interaction.

The successful applicant will contribute to the screening of the isolates against different targets (fungi, bacteria and insects), to the genomic characterization and to the identification of intra-specific genetic differences. The researcher will also be involved in gene expression studies and transcriptomic analyses to clarify the Mode of Action related to the pesticidal activity.

### Tasks & Responsibilities

- Conduct in vitro and in vivo experiments finalized to evaluate the ability of the strains to control fungi, bacteria and insects;
- Carry out experiments to clarify the bacterial mode of action through genomic and transcriptomic analyses;
- Provide support to Bioecopest group in planning the field and semi-field trials, aimed to evaluate the efficacy of the prototype formulate;
- Analyze data and draft experimental reports;
- Assist in lab management;
- Contribute to the dissemination of results in peer-reviewed journals and scientific conferences.

### Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

#### Essentials

- MSc degree in Agriculture (Plant Pathology or Plant Protection), Biotechnology, Microbiology;
- Able to independently manage laboratory experiments and reports;
- Strong critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities;
- Motivated Team player;
- Strong writing, communication and presentation skills in English.

### Bioecopest srl a socio unico

SP 55 P. Conte - Capo Caccia SNC - Loc. Tramariglio - 07041 Alghero - SS - Italia  
T. +39 079998443-622 - info@bioecopest.com - www.bioecopest.com  
C.F./P.IVA: 02394290908 - N° REA: SS-171253 - PEC: bioecopest@pec.com - SDI: KRRH6B9  
Cap. Soc. € 20.000 i.v. - Società soggetta alla direzione e coordinamento di **Levante srl**  
Centro di Saggio autorizzato dal MASAF



### *Preferred*

- PhD degree in Agriculture (Plant Pathology or Plant Protection), Biotechnology, Microbiology or a proven experience of at least 3 years in closely related fields;
- Proficiency in R and Python
- Competences in Machine Learning in computational biology
- Experience in Plant Pathology/Plant Protection industry
- Proactive and Can-do attitude
- Fluent in Italian.

### **About us**

#### *Bioecopest*

Bioecopest ([bioecopest.com](http://bioecopest.com)) is a CRO (Contract Research Organization) acting as scientific backbone for organizations in their quest for innovation and technological advancement, connecting Research and Industry. We are committed to empirical-driven data paired with the invaluable technical knowledge and insights of our experts to create value for our customers in a dynamic and complex environment.

Our aim is to help customers in advancing agroindustry innovation and sustainability, adopting a holistic perspective and a multi-disciplinary approach. Bioecopest focuses on studying the biological activity of ingredients and formulates, natural or synthetic, deciphering the efficacy, the role in the biological systems and the interaction with the environment.

Our services ranges from in-vitro efficacy and mode of action, biomolecular analysis, bioinformatic to the field testing of products. Bioecopest is officially recognized by the Italian Ministry of Agriculture to conduct GEP (Good Experimental Practices) efficacy trials according to EPPO protocols.

We support customers through the early stages of discovery and development up to field efficacy and authorization process.

#### *Alghero*

Alghero is a charming coastal city in Sardinia, Italy, renowned for its well-preserved medieval architecture, vibrant Catalan heritage, and stunning Mediterranean beaches. Often referred to as "Little Barcelona," Alghero boasts narrow cobblestone streets, historic walls, and a picturesque harbor filled with colorful fishing boats. The city is also famous for its delectable seafood cuisine and the striking beauty of the nearby natural landscapes. Alghero's blend of warm weather, cultural influences and natural beauty makes it a captivating destination all the year around.

### **Application process**

We are aware that job applications can be a stressful event, and this could stop bright talents to put themselves forward, but we'd love to hear from you anyhow!

The application is online. By November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, send your CV and a cover letter to [info@bioecopest.com](mailto:info@bioecopest.com), using as subject of the email SARDUS BACTER JOB APPLICATION – YOUR SURNAME, NAME.

In November 2024 the most promising applicants will be contacted for a video interview.

The project is set to start in January 2025.

#### **Bioecopest srl a socio unico**

SP 55 P. Conte - Capo Caccia SNC - Loc. Tramariglio - 07041 Alghero - SS - Italia

T. +39 079998443-622 - [info@bioecopest.com](mailto:info@bioecopest.com) - [www.bioecopest.com](http://www.bioecopest.com)

C.F./P.IVA: 02394290908 - N° REA: SS-171253 - PEC: [bioecopest@pec.com](mailto:bioecopest@pec.com) - SDI: KRRH6B9

Cap. Soc. € 20.000 i.v. - Società soggetta alla direzione e coordinamento di **Levante srl**

Centro di Saggio autorizzato dal MASAF