



## Tenure-Eligible Junior Professor Chair Position

### Understanding and steering microbial communities in agroecosystems to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services

#### Job description and environment

The Chair is part of the HARMI « ExcellencES » project (Harnessing Microbiomes for sustainable development) funded by the French government's Investment for the Future Program (France 2030). The HARMI project aims at creating the first European Interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence in the Bourgogne Franche-Comté region dedicated to the use of the microbes for addressing the most crucial societal and environmental challenges (<https://www.ubfc.fr/en/recherche/projets-de-recherche/harmi/>).

The aim of this junior professor position is to understand and steer microbial communities in agroecosystems to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services. The research themes encompass (i) consequences of agricultural management practices for microbial communities and their functions (ii) mechanisms of microbially-mediated transformations of agriculture inputs (iii) impact of climate change on soil microbes and mitigation, (iv) plant-microbe as well as microbe-microbe interactions. We welcome applications from people working in the fields of microbial ecology, environmental microbiology, biogeochemistry and plant-microbe interactions.

The person recruited will be based in Dijon at the Agroecology Department (<https://eng-umr-agroecologie.dijon.hub.inrae.fr/>). The department is currently composed of 4 research sections and 4 platforms for a total staff of more than 350 people. Scientists are microbiologists, agronomists, soil and plant scientists and ecologists. The French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment (INRAE) is a public research establishment under the dual authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Research. It is a community of 12,000 people with more than 200 research units and 42 experimental units located throughout France. The institute is among the world leaders in agricultural and food sciences, in plant and animal sciences, and is 11th in the world in ecology and environment. The position is expected to contribute to the department's and INRAE's mission to accelerate agroecological transitions by reducing negative environmental and health impacts of production, and increasing food system resilience to global changes.

#### Training and skills

The Junior Professor Chair is intended for scientists with a PhD who have already demonstrated their ability to produce excellent research, evidenced by a strong record of high-quality publications in international peer-reviewed journals. The position is mainly dedicated to research. The person recruited will hold a PhD in Microbiology or a related field, with at least five years of independent and demonstrable research experience following the completion of the PhD. Knowledge in soil microbiology and biotic interactions would be particularly appreciated. Experience in supervision as well as in leading or participating in national, European or international research projects is strongly recommended.

## Type of contract

The person recruited be provided a 390 k€ grant (including salary for this position and a postdoc, consumables, travels, small equipments, etc...) for a period of three years, supported by the HARMI Excellence project funded by the French 2030 program. The salary will be negotiated on the basis of education and experience. Recruitment will be operated by the INRAE. It will integrate a benefit package including retirement, health insurance, annual and sick leave. During the 3-year period, the successful candidate will be committed to apply for a European Research Council (ERC) grant. At the end of this period, and following an assessment of your scientific achievements and professional capabilities, you may obtain a **full-tenure position** by applying to the INRAE open competition for Research Director (DR2) in the Agroecology department.

## Application

We invite the interested candidates to follow the link <https://www.ubfc.fr/en/research/research-projects-2/harmi/#CPJ> to download the form to be filled and returned by email to [harmi@ubfc.fr](mailto:harmi@ubfc.fr) in pdf format (file name : CPJ-HARMI2025-[Lastname].pdf), **before April. 30th, 2025**. Only candidates selected by a jury based on their application will be invited to the hearing.

**For additional information**, please contact [harmi@ubfc.fr](mailto:harmi@ubfc.fr) and [Laurent.philippot@inrae.fr](mailto:Laurent.philippot@inrae.fr)