



Young talents program **(Tenure-Eligible Junior Professor Chair Position)**

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

Job number: HARMI-YTP-2025-01

Job description and environment

The program 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 a 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/>).

HARMI provides funding for talented young researchers (experience > 5 years after PhD) the opportunity to pursue their ideas and lead a research project focused on the understanding and steering of microbial communities in agroecosystems to enhance the delivery of ecosystem services. The HARMI funding includes a full salary for the grant holder, along with up to 180 000 euros to support the recruitment of a postdoctoral researcher and to cover research-related expenses. 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 the Agroecology Department (<https://eng-umragroecologie.dijon.hub.inrae.fr/>) at the INRAE center in Dijon. The INRAE (French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment) is a public research institute under the joint authority of the Ministries of Agriculture and Research. It brings together 12,000 people across more than 200 research units and 42 experimental sites throughout France. The institute ranks among the world's leading research organization in agricultural, food, plant, and animal sciences, and is 11th globally in ecology and environmental research. The Agroecology 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 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 enhancing food system resilience to global change.

Training and skills

The current candidate's research Department must not be located in Bourgogne Franche-Comté. 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 successful candidate will be provided a 400 k€ grant (including salary for their position and a postdoc-max 24 months, 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 their scientific achievements and professional capabilities, the successful candidate 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 Application-Form (<https://www.ubfc.fr/en/research/research-projects-2/harmi/#AACJT>) to download the form to be filled and returned by email to harmoni@ubfc.fr, **before December 12th, 2025**. Only candidates selected by a jury based on their application will be invited to the hearing.

For additional information, please contact harmoni@ubfc.fr and Laurent.philippot@inrae.fr