

## **Microbial formulation scientist**

Aphea.Bio is a young start-up company that focuses on the exploitation of natural, beneficial interactions that occur between microorganisms and plants. Aphea.Bio discovers and develops novel biostimulant and crop protection products, hence shaping a more sustainable agriculture.

We are seeking highly motivated and innovative scientists to help us carry out the research and development of novel and superior agricultural biological products. Successful candidates will become part of a committed, creative and highly dynamic team with opportunities to take responsibility and for personal development.

Aphea.Bio is **based in Gent, Belgium** embedded in the largest European Agro-Biotech valley.

To strengthen its R&D team Aphea.Bio is looking for a **Microbiology Formulation Scientist** that will be responsible for all aspects related to formulation development of newly discovered biostimulant and biocontrol products based on bacteria and fungi.

### **Main responsibilities:**

- Define and develop formulation protocols for microbial products for seed and foliar application
- Develop and evaluate prototype formulation
- Define the optimal formulation for microorganisms in liquid and solid (e.g. powder, granules...) products
- Drive scale-up from laboratory to pilot to production scale formulation
- Define, develop, and validate a commercially compatible formulation with an eye on cost, stability, shelf-life, efficacy, safety and integrable with current agricultural practices
- Maintain detailed records of (standard operating) protocols and results
- Support and coach the technical team
- Be an active member of the R&D leadership team

### **Qualifications:**

- Knowledge and hands-on experience on the principles, practices and techniques of formulation technology for microbial and/or active ingredient based products
- Hands-on experience with working with bacteria and fungi
- Experience in liquid and solid formats of biological products is a plus
- Experience with seed treatment and foliar spray applications is a plus
- Knowledge of the agricultural industry is a plus
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret scientific journal articles, technical procedures, and government regulations
- Strong capability to communicate and present data to R&D leadership team
- Experience in coaching and supervising technical staff

**Education and Experience:**

- Ph.D. or MS in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Engineering (or equal through relevant experience) or related fields.
- Experience in agricultural industry responsible for biological formulation (bacteria & fungi) is a plus.

**Other skills:**

- Computer skills: proficiency in Word, Power Point and Excel applications. Experience with data management and statistics software is a plus.
- Language skills: fluent in English (written and verbal)
- Interpersonal skills: team player, creative, communicative, optimist, committed, flexible, entrepreneurial, organized, problem-solver.

Motivated applicants should send their CV including a cover letter to [Manuele.ricci@aphea.bio](mailto:Manuele.ricci@aphea.bio), [Veerle.vancleemput@aphea.bio](mailto:Veerle.vancleemput@aphea.bio) and [Michael.houbraken@aphea.bio](mailto:Michael.houbraken@aphea.bio) .