ULiège is RECRUITING a research assistant for the project “CHAR”: « Century-old CHARcoal kiln sites as an experimental site for assessing long-term biochar effects on agronomical and environmental performance of agricultural soils ».

Within University of Liège (Belgium), we are looking for a highly motivated research assistant position in the framework of the fully funded research project CHAR. The half-time position will be hosted in Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech and will start on 1st October 2017.

This project considers the responses of crop systems to the variations of pedological and hydrodynamic soil properties induced by charcoal accumulation over more than 150 years as an analogue to biochar (a carbon rich solid phase produced by pyrolysis) accumulation.

Our project will be implemented in a calibration field characterized by homogeneous pedological and agronomical conditions targeting multiple charcoal-enriched soil spots and their adjacent reference soils. The pedological and agronomical characterization will allow us to ensure that the differences in terms of soil-plant functioning are mainly due to charcoal accumulation, as climate, geology, agricultural practices, and topography are identical. In this experimental site, we will study the long-term response of the soil-plant system to charcoal.

We are looking for a scientist that will be able to carry out field work (implementing and managing experimental field site), soil analysis in laboratory and geophysical field measurements, as well as to deal with data treatment/analysis in close collaboration with the PhD candidates and the farmer involved in the experimental site. The research assistant must have skills in environmental and soil sciences and soil chemical analysis.
Requirements

- Master in environmental sciences, environmental chemistry, agronomy or related discipline.
- English language proficiency;
- Possess good social and communication skills.

Interested candidates should send a CV, a motivation letter and the names and addresses of three referees before 1st of July by e-mail to Jean-Thomas Cornelis (jtcornelis@ulg.ac.be). Feel free to contact us (jtcornelis@ulg.ac.be, sarah.garre@ulg.ac.be, F.Nguyen@ulg.ac.be, Bernard.Tychon@ulg.ac.be) for specific questions prior to submitting your application.

Best regards,

Sarah Garré, Frédéric Nguyen, Bernard Tychon and Jean-Thomas Cornelis