



Agricultural / Forest Ecologist Postdoctoral Researcher

Post	Agricultural / Forest Ecologist Postdoctoral Researcher
Department	Agroforestry KNUST
Programme	Flourishing Landscapes Programme
Collaborators	University of Oxford, UK
Location	Kumasi
Salary	Competitive and very attractive. Commensurate with that of a newly appointed Lecturer at KNUST. Salary Grade G21H01
Hours	Full time
Contract type	Fixed Term September 2024 to September 2026
Reporting to	Dr. Evans Dawoe, Dr Daniel Hending & Dr. William Thompson
Application deadline	1 st August 2024
Recruitment contacts	elkdawoe.canr@knust.edu.gh , daniel.hending@biology.ox.ac.uk
To apply	Send CV and cover letter to the contacts above

Research topic	Agricultural and forest ecology in cocoa systems
Principal Investigator	Dr. William Thompson
Project web site	https://www.naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org/ https://www.naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org/projects/the-flourishing-landscapes-programme/
Funding partner	Global Centre on Bioiversity for Climate (https://www.gcbc.org.uk/)

The role

Reporting to the Programme Lead in Ghana (Dr. Evans Dawoe) at KNUST, the post holder is responsible for conducting ecological research, as part of an international collaborative research programme (The Flourishing Landscapes Programme) on ecological intensification in smallholder cocoa agricultural systems at tropical forest frontiers. The FLP addresses key knowledge gaps regarding the role of

biodiversity in maximising nature's contributions to people (NCPs) in agricultural landscapes, with innovative ecological methods. The project is co-ordinated by the Nature-based Solutions Initiative at the Department of Biology, University of Oxford.

Responsibilities

- Develop research questions within a specific context, conduct individual research, analysing detailed and complex qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources, and generate original ideas by building on existing concepts
- Develop and implement new research methodologies and materials. Conduct ecological research in cocoa agroforestry systems.
- Regularly write research articles at a national level for peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and reviews. Present papers at national conferences, and lead seminars to disseminate research findings
- Contribute to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels at the Agroforestry Department of the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources.
- Agree on clear task objectives, organise, and delegate work to other members of the team and coach other members of the group on specialist methodologies or procedures
- Represent the research group at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the group or alone
- Carry out collaborative projects with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups
- Embed the principles of mutual respect, equality, diversity, inclusivity and sustainability in all aspects of your work; undertake training as and when asked to do so.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Excellent English and Twi language skills
- Hold, or be close to completion of, a relevant Ph.D/D.Phil
- Experience in collecting and/or analysing data for at least one of the following: agroforestry vegetation structure, agricultural soils, leaf litter, insect pollinators, microclimate data
- Publication record and familiarity with the existing literature and research in the field.
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research projects and methodologies
- Ability to independently plan and manage a research project, including a research budget
- Ability to engage with cocoa value chain actors and stakeholders
- Experience in conducting research and engagement with cocoa stakeholders within the landscape will be an added advantage

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience of supervising staff
 - Experience of managing a research budget
 - Experience of managing complex projects
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