

# **Project Leader Transformation and Genome Engineering Cluster (TGEC) (M/F)**

**Company:** Seed company specialized in sugar beet

**Department:** Biotechnology / Plant Transformation

**Reporting to/hierarchy:** Head Biotechnology

Our client is a leading seed company specialized in the breeding, production and marketing of sugar beet varieties worldwide.

Through responsive research, teamwork and partnerships, they offer reliable seed solutions for the sugar beet industry and growers, in every potential sugar beet area of the world. Their passion for innovation, based on many years of experience and expertise, and the research programmes in which they invest considerably, guarantee current and future customized sugar beet solutions to deliver ever higher yields.

**Function details:** The Project Leader TGEC will lead and manage the plant transformation projects in sugar beet within the biotechnology department, in close interaction with breeding experts and other expert teams/clusters in the company. In agreement with the breeding strategy, (s)he will be responsible for building the R&D portfolio in the area of trait development and for stimulating the development of collaborations with academia and technology suppliers.

## **Expectations for this role include:**

- Lead and manage the cell biology and genetic transformation group, related projects and laboratories, to ensure optimal delivery of transgenic plants or genetically engineered plants of sugar beet to achieve the objectives of novel trait development.
- Coordinate and influence other experts contributing to the various steps of the projects (ex. Molecular analyses, IT, ...) towards common goals and objectives.
- Ensure the cell biology based technologies used for genome engineering in sugar beet are up-to-date with the progress of cell and gene technologies in plant biology.

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## "We help scientific brains to find each other!"

- Lead the thinking process to support the design of experiments enabling improvements of the technologies used within the group.
- Identify, contact, recommend and establish collaborations with academic groups developing traits or genetic tools that are relevant to the strategic objectives.
- Maintain high standards in the molecular analyses of the transgenic material to identify early lead transformation events, by leading and supervising the expert team performing molecular analyses.
- Set up collaboration framework with assistance of the biotech manager, IP attorney, company lawyer and other necessary support; recommend terms of collaboration and supervise the negotiation of a favorable position for the company.
- Contribute to the business analysis of traits, the trait management strategy (stacking, co-existence, ...), the experimentation with transgenic plants and the development plan of lead transformation events with other experts in the project teams, by bringing an up-to-date knowledge in the area of gene technologies, mode of actions of genes, competitor activity, gene suppliers and IP landscape in the related area.
- Manage internal and collaborative trait development projects in an international environment.

### **Education and qualifications:**

- PhD (or master equivalent by experience) with minimum 8 years experience in Plant Genetic Engineering and Plant Biotechnology (molecular techniques, genomics, construction of genetic vectors, screening methods for gene expression in transformed plants); experience in a similar position in seed/agrochemical industry is definitely a plus.
- Deep interest for gene technologies and their application in a field crop.
- Capacity to think strategically to help choose the right targets with a practical sense to set projects in motion respecting budgets and deadlines.
- Capacity to lead the screening process for seeking lead events showing expected characteristics to become potential commercial candidates.
- Capacity to lead and motivate a team.
- Good negotiation skills.
- Capacity to analyze a large amount of scientific and business information.

### **Personality and mentality:**

- Highly quality/result oriented, persuasive and accurate people manager.
- Proactive, broad and strategic thinker.
- Helicopter view.
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal, communication, and collaborative skills.
- Like to share knowledge.
- Open minded and flexible team worker.
- Driven by enthusiasm, commitment and dedication.
- Sociable, ethical and trustworthy.

### **Languages:**

- Fluent in English, both oral and written.
- Knowledge of Dutch is highly preferred.

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**Mobility/travel:** Limited travel requirements.

**Job specificities:**

- Full-time.
- Permanent employment.
- Location: Tienen, Belgium.
- Starting date: begin 2012.

**Offer:**

- Attractive financial conditions and extra-legal benefits.
- Help for visa and work permit.

**Available education/training:**

- Room for own initiatives on further education and training.
- A work environment that supports your development.

**Career opportunities:** Stable career possibilities.

**Interested?**

You match the requested criteria for min. 90% ?

Then send your application including publications and references to [cv@scienceco.eu](mailto:cv@scienceco.eu),  
mentioning reference BE-R24JK

*You have questions? Contact us, we are eager to help you! **Tel.:** +32 2 400 75 12*