



Field Geneticist (Plant Breeder)

(Salary - c£21k p.a.)

The Scottish Crop Research Institute (SCRI) is a world renowned centre of expertise for plant breeding and research. Mylnefield Research Services Ltd. (MRS), the wholly-owned subsidiary of SCRI, breeds new varieties of crops for commercial customers. More than 50 plant varieties bred at SCRI are grown around the world. Interest in plant breeding has never been higher, driven not only by consumers' desire for healthy, nutritious and flavoursome food, but also by the need to meet the challenges provided by climate change and biofuel targets.

In order to stay at the forefront of international plant breeding and fully exploit the opportunities being generated by rapid developments in plant genomics and molecular biology, MRS with support from GlaxoSmithKline is looking to recruit a plant breeder for soft fruit. SCRI is recognised as a world-leading centre for contemporary research into economically important characters in soft fruit, and the post represents a unique opportunity to translate aspects of this research into products. The ideal candidate will have a degree in a relevant area of plant sciences including genetics (minimum 2(i)), combined with sound mathematical and computer skills.

This is a permanent position and the successful applicant will be expected to register for a PhD which will be carried out over a period of 5 years. The research topic will be in the genetics of fruit quality traits in blackcurrant, including polyphenol composition. Training will be specific to developing the next generation of plant breeders that can integrate current and emerging molecular technologies with traditional breeding methods to improve the efficiency of selection and the utilisation of genetic resources. It will include the principles of quantitative genetics allied to molecular techniques applied to plant breeding. Training will also cover experimental design and applied statistics, pest and disease management, plant variety rights, database management and field phenotyping.

Applications in writing, enclosing a copy of your *Curriculum vitae* (including the names and addresses of two referees) should be sent to HR Office, Scottish Crop Research Institute, Errol Road, Invergowrie, DUNDEE DD2 5DA, UK by **Friday, 13 August 2010**.