

NC State University
Department of Plant Pathology
Post-doctoral Associate – Ecosystem Services and Evolution of Emerging Plant Disease – Black Sigatoka
Starting February 2014 (start date flexible)

The Department of Plant Pathology at NC State University in Raleigh is hiring a full-time postdoctoral associate one year beginning in February 2014. The postdoctoral fellow will join a research team of faculty from 5 universities that is working on a project funded by the National Academy Sciences Keck Futures Initiative on Ecosystem Services and the evolution of Emerging Plant Diseases in Africa. They will also actively participate in a Rockefeller funded Bellagio Conference in April in Italy.

The postdoctoral fellow will work on two main aspects of this analysis. These include 1) Writing a paper that uses an ecosystem services framework to ask the question “Can the spread of emerging plant pathogens and pests be reduced using ecosystem service impact modeling and transformational technologies?” and 2) Research on the evolution of an emerging plant pathogen. Black sigatoka of banana will be used as a model system to study the population genetics and impacts of novel management strategies on the disease.

During their training, postdoctoral associate will receive close mentoring from two program faculty. They will attend seminars and meetings, present their research at national research conferences, write papers, and hone their skills in specific methodological techniques. In addition, the postdoctoral associate will gain practical experience by helping to plan and run a large research project and by supervising graduate and undergraduate student research assistants.

Qualifications: PhD degree with expertise in ecology, evolution and population genetics of fungal pathogens is required. Required: A basic understanding of ecosystem services (ES) concepts as well as use of ES models to understand environmental impacts of management decisions is also important. Skills and experience using next generation sequencing technologies and phylogenomics software tools to study evolutionary relationships of fungal pathogens or related organisms is required. Applicants from a variety of disciplines (e.g., plant pathology, plant biology ecology, evolutionary biology or genetics) are encouraged to apply. Successful applicants must have a good command of qualitative and/or quantitative methods used in the population genetics and ecology. Finally, applicants must have received their doctoral degree by the start date. The fellowship includes a competitive salary and plus health insurance.

To Apply: A letter of interest, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference and two publications or papers should be submitted by email by February 15. Your letter of interest must detail how your skills and interests match specific opportunities provided by the post-doctoral fellowship.

An application at the NC State employment website is also required. The position number is 00103763. <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/32313>. Please direct inquiries to Dr. Jean Ristaino jean_ristaino@ncsu.edu

NC State University is an equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity and strongly encourages applications from all qualified applicants, including women and minorities.