

## Field Crops Program

### Cereal Breeding Section

#### Description for a Molecular Breeder Position

#### About IRTA

IRTA (Institute of Agriculture and Food Research and Technology, <http://www.irta.cat>) is a research state-owned Institute of the Catalan Government (Spain). IRTA's activities are concerned with scientific research and technology transfer and it functions under private sector law.

The general goals of IRTA are to promote research and technological development in the area of agri-food, to facilitate the transfer of scientific advances and to evaluate its own technological advances whilst seeking the utmost coordination and collaboration between the public and private sectors.

#### Group details

IRTA's Field Crops Program holds the largest and most successful public breeding program devoted to small grain cereals in Spain. In the last decade more than 20 varieties have been released and transferred to seed companies. At present bread wheat and durum wheat breeding programs are undergoing with the collaboration of private seed companies.

Current research projects deal with the study of Mediterranean germplasm collections to identify and map QTLs associated with complex traits, particularly related with drought resistance, NUE, grain quality, and the adaptation to changing environmental conditions. The team is also involved in testing networks for variety release and farmers' recommendation.

#### Aims of job

To provide an interface between molecular genetics and applied breeding with the purpose of incorporating advanced molecular tools and techniques in the wheat breeding programs and the research projects carried out by the team.

#### Person Specification

Candidates should have a Ph.D., previous experience with genome-wide association mapping and expertise in biostatistics applied to plant breeding. The successful applicant should display a relevant publication record, excellent communication skills and ability to work co-operatively as part of a team with in interdisciplinary inquiry.

#### Work site

Lleida, a city of about 120.000 citizens located in northeastern Spain, very well communicated with Barcelona (150 km) and at 120 km from the Mediterranean sea, and at 80 km from the Pyrenees. It is a quite city with about 10,000 university students and a pleasant place to leave.

#### Salary

Competitive and commensurate with background and experience.

#### Applications

For enquiries about the project and further information on the position, candidates should contact: Dr. Conxita Royo. E.mail [conxita.royo@irta.cat](mailto:conxita.royo@irta.cat) indicating in the subject of the message: molecular breeding position.