

Within the context of the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded project “Transformative strategy for controlling rice disease in developing countries”** the research group of **Prof. Dr. Wolf B. Frommer** at Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf, Germany, is offering a

Postdoc position Advanced breeding technologies (all gender)

Background and responsibilities

Project: Developing blight resistant rice lines using advanced breeding methods

Rice is the world’s most important staple food and is mainly cultivated by small scale producers in low and middle-income countries. Bacterial leaf blight caused by the bacteria *Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae* (Xoo), is a major problem in the cultivation of rice and can result in significant yield losses. The “Healthy Crops” team aims to achieve food security for smallholder farmers in Africa and Asia by providing resistant rice varieties that can be introduced in local elite lines. The specific project aims are to develop resistant lines using transgene-free genome editing, for example through the use of nanoparticles, in combination with novel methods that facilitate regeneration of plants from protoplasts. The project also involves CRISPR protein guide RNA complex purification. Experience in cell culture and protoplast regeneration is advantageous, extensive experience in molecular biology and biochemistry is important.



Rice plants exposed to Xoo. Plants on the left picture are susceptible to bacterial leaf blight, whereas plants on the right are highly resistant.

Qualification profile

- PhD degree in Biology or a related field
- High level of motivation, accuracy and reliability, team spirit and hands-on mentality
- Excellent communication skills in English
- Good knowledge of MS Office applications and data analysis software
- Advanced experience with statistics

We offer

The candidate will work in a highly motivated, international environment, embedded in an experienced team of rice researchers from different institutions around the world. The starting date is as soon as possible. The position is full-time with salary and benefits commensurate with a public service position in the state North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany (TV-L E 13, 100 %). The position will be filled by a temporary contract that is limited to the period which is necessary to gain further scientific expertise (such as the preparation for a subsequent qualification period). The limitation of the contract complies to § 2 Abs. 1 WissZeitVG. In areas where women are underrepresented, female applicants will be preferred in case of equal qualification. Applicants with a disability as described in SGB IX (§ 2 Abs. 2, 3) will be preferred in case of equal qualification.

Send application to

If you are interested, please send your application including a CV, names and email addresses of three references, and a one-page motivation letter as a single pdf document to **Prof. Dr. Wolf B. Frommer** (apply_Postdoc_BMGF@hhu.de).