

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

RESEARCH SCHOLAR (NON-TENURE TRACK)

Sweetpotato and Potato Breeding and Genetics Program

Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609

Appointment and Salary: This is a 12-month full-time position with annual renewal contingent upon performance and funding. Salary is commensurate with experience, health insurance and retirement benefits provided.

Deadline for Applications/ Start Date: October 15, 2021, or until a suitable candidate is found.

Position Overview: The Sweetpotato and Potato Breeding and Genetics Programs at NC State University are dedicated to serving the needs of sweetpotato and potato farmers in NC, the US, and internationally. We collaborate with the global scientific research community and our work is widely recognized. Our project's goals are to: 1) develop improved table stock, processing, ornamental and industrial sweetpotato and potato varieties; 2) conduct genomic and phenomic research to facilitate sweetpotato and potato breeding efforts; 3) conduct research to broaden the germplasm base of these important staple crops; and 4) provide advanced training for national and international students, visiting scientists, and policy makers interested in these essential crops. Ultimately, we expect that our varieties, and those developed by our global partners, will provide nutritional and economic benefits to farmers and consumers locally and globally.

We seek a highly motivated, organized and independent person familiar with modern breeding methods to advance our genomic-assisted breeding programs. The candidate selected will report to the leader of the Sweetpotato and Potato Breeding and Genetics Programs, and you will assist with the management of three projects focused on the development of improved potatoes and sweetpotatoes for local and global consumers. We are looking for an excellent communicator and efficient multitasker capable of coordinating multidisciplinary projects consisting of academic, industry and international colleagues working in breeding and molecular genetics, statistical genetics and bioinformatics, cultural management, food science, and computer engineering.

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Plant Breeding, Genetics or related field with at least three years of experience. The successful candidate must have a strong desire to work in an active cultivar development program focused on integrating traditional, genomic and phenomic approaches to sweetpotato and potato germplasm improvement and variety development. Candidates with prior genomic-assisted breeding knowledge and experience incorporating genomic selection, with advanced genetic and field plot analytics and database use in a cultivar development program, are preferred.

Major Responsibilities: Specific responsibilities will include: coordinating and conducting genomic-assisted sweetpotato and potato breeding activities; working collaboratively with local and sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) team members to design and execute conventional and genomic selection breeding experiments; development of an electronic data capture and database system to facilitate sweetpotato and potato improvement; collaborating with cultural management studies; collaborating with food scientists to correlate storage root constituents quantified via GC-MS, HPLC-MS and NIRS modeling with culinary qualities; collecting, analyzing and presenting data; completing reports and preparing grant proposals; networking with domestic and international partners; training students; and publishing results in peer-reviewed and trade journals.

Physical Demands: Applied plant breeding can be physically demanding. Longer hours may be necessary during growing season with significant amounts of time spent in the field at the experiment station and on-farm field sites. Ability to work with field equipment and lift over 50 lbs. will occasionally be required. Occasional national and international travel, primarily to SSA, will be required.

Application: Apply online at <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/150310>. Please include a cover letter detailing your experiences and qualifications, resume, and names and contact information for three references. For more information contact: Dr. Craig Yencho, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, Email: craig_yencho@ncsu.edu, Phone (919) 513-7417 (W) / (919) 218-0618 (C).

Work Location: The work base is located on-campus, Monday-Friday, 40 hours/week. Occasional overnight travel will be necessary.

Necessary Licenses or Certifications: Driver license needed. No other special licenses or certifications needed.

AA/EEO. NC State welcomes all persons without regard to sexual orientation, race or sex. Final candidates for employment are subject to criminal & sex offender background checks. Some vacancies also require credit or motor vehicle checks. A previous criminal conviction does not automatically disqualify an applicant from consideration for employment. However, failure to provide complete & accurate information will be considered "falsification" and applicants will be removed from consideration.