

## Postdoctoral Researcher: Integrated Ecosystem Experiments and Research Infrastructure

**Position:** Postdoctoral Researcher (Scientific Coordination)

**Project:** TAPIR 2

**Contract:** Postdoctoral position

**Location:** Gembloux Agro Bio Tech (Gembloux, Belgium)

**Starting date:** march 2026

**Duration:** 18 months

### Project Context

The TAPIR project (Transdisciplinary Agroecosystem Platform for Integrated Research), funded by the ULiège SRA-STEMA program and launched in July 2024 for an initial 18-month phase, aims to support the ambition of the University of Liège's experimental platforms to help redesign agricultural systems through an agroecological approach and to strengthen its role in international research consortia.

TAPIR builds on the synergy between two unique research infrastructures labelled at the European level: ECOFOODSYSTEM, a long-term field-scale experiment exploring the links between diets and agricultural systems, and the TERRA-ECOTRON, a large-scale controlled environment facility simulating past, present, and future climate conditions applied to agroecosystems. During its first phase, TAPIR designed the integrated ECO<sup>3</sup> experiment, which will test, on the long term, the resilience of ECOFOODSYSTEM cropping systems under present and future climates simulated in the Ecotron.

The second phase, starting in January 2026, aims to deploy the ECO<sup>3</sup> experiment, consolidate soil biology expertise, and enhance modelling approaches integrating experimental data, field observations, and climate projections. It also aims to develop a Living Lab focused on farm electrification and to implement actions to increase the international attractiveness of the infrastructures, including hosting visiting researchers, supporting ERC applications, and organizing scientific workshops.

In the context of this project, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech is seeking to recruit a postdoctoral researcher.

## **Main Responsibilities**

### **1. Coordination of post docs and research activities**

The postdoctoral researcher will contribute to the coordination of the two additional postdoctoral researchers hired on the project and facilitate efficient information exchange among consortium partners, supporting the development of transversal workflows and integrated research activities.

### **2. Scientific Coordination and Implementation of ECO<sup>3</sup>**

The postdoctoral researcher will coordinate the scientific and operational implementation of ECO<sup>3</sup>, working closely with thematic research groups, principal investigators, and other postdoctoral researchers involved in the project. They will support the selection of experimental scenarios, organize the ECO<sup>3</sup> steering committee, and contribute to the definition of measurement strategies, sampling campaigns, and task allocation, in collaboration with the Ecotron manager. The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to contribute to a research component focused on process-based modelling within the ECO<sup>3</sup> framework to investigate ecosystem processes.

The position also involves identifying technical solutions and preparing cost estimates for the Ecotron upgrade. It also involves close collaboration with the other postdoctoral researchers in the project to establish integrated management of the data produced by the entire TAPIR project so that they are coordinated and accessible to all scientists involved. The postdoctoral will also liaise between the ECO<sup>3</sup> experiment and the Soil Biology Laboratory that will monitor the soil of this experiment.

### **3. Support for Research Project Development**

The postdoctoral researcher will contribute to strengthening the scientific and financial sustainability of ECO<sup>3</sup> by:

- Supporting the preparation and submission of national and European research proposals, with particular emphasis on securing long-term funding for sensors, analysis and functioning, and for manpower for ECO<sup>3</sup>.
- Contributing to the international visibility of ECO<sup>3</sup> and TAPIR 2 within relevant scientific networks and research infrastructures.

#### **4. Incentive Actions and Scientific Dissemination**

The position includes active involvement in incentive and dissemination activities, including:

- Communicating opportunities offered by the TAPIR 2 incentive program.
- Supporting the organization and coordination of:
  - Short-term research stays (PhD students and postdoctoral researchers),
  - Long-term mobility or support actions (MSA candidates).
- Helping to organize two international scientific workshops (approximately 50 participants each).
- Establishing contacts with facilities hosting similar initiatives
- Produce scientific publications

#### **5. Communication and Outreach**

- The appointed candidate will have to design and maintain a dedicated ECO<sup>3</sup> webpage, in coordination with the TAPIR 2 consortium, to ensure effective communication of objectives, activities, and outcomes.

#### **Profile and Qualifications**

- PhD in Ecology, Environmental sciences, Biogeosciences, or a related discipline.
- Demonstrated aptitude for interdisciplinary research and scientific coordination is an asset.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to interact efficiently with diverse stakeholders (postdocs, PIs, engineers, data scientists).
- Experience with large research infrastructures, experimental platforms, or ecosystem experiments, along with skills in proposal writing and project development at the national or European level, is an asset.
- Very good command of English (written and spoken); knowledge of French is an asset.

#### **Working Conditions**

The position is open for 18 months and the candidate will be based in Gembloux (Belgium)

This position involves frequent and harmonious interactions with members of the TAPIR consortium, including postdoctoral researchers and principal investigators, as well as regular attendance at TERRA-ECOTRON facility to monitor ECO<sup>3</sup>, in coordination with its manager and technician. As a result, teleworking is limited to a maximum of one day per week.

## **What we offer**

Within the TAPIR project, this position offers the opportunity to work on ambitious, high-impact research supported by outstanding infrastructures, in a pleasant and supportive environment on a green campus in Gembloux, with a high quality of life and easy access to Brussels and other major European cities.

In addition to publishing the obtained results, the successful candidate will work closely with Principal Investigators (PIs) and will receive regular guidance on elaboration of scientific proposals from conceptualization and strategic consortium development to submission. He/she will be officially associated to proposal submission to enhance the seniority of his/her CV as well as his/her capacity to acquire funding. The successful candidate will be encouraged to attend training sessions in proposal writing and management skills offered by University of Liège.

## **Contact**

For further information, please contact Dr Caroline De Clerck ([caroline.declerck@uliege.be](mailto:caroline.declerck@uliege.be)). Applications, including a cover letter and curriculum vitae, should be sent to Dr Caroline De Clerck. While applications will be accepted until 15 February 2026, we reserve the right to begin interviews earlier and to close the recruitment process once a sufficient number of suitable applications has been received. The position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been appointed. The successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible in March 2026, with the possibility of a transition period if needed.