



Job opening PhD research:

UAV technology in support of the farmer

■ Project description:

In Europe “Smart Sensors” combined with ICT are considered as one of the main solutions to secure food for 9 billion persons in a sustainable and profitable manner. ILVO, as a multidisciplinary research institution, focuses with the ISense project on an important strategic mission: increase sustainability, efficiency, animal welfare, food quality and safety through concrete innovations applying sensor technology in agriculture, fisheries and the food sector.

In the ISense project, three PhD researchers will cooperate on three different topics: Precision livestock farming, precision crop farming and biosensors. The research on precision crop farming will focus on the development of a methodology to objectively and quantitatively assess the evolution of the crop status in space and time using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV or drone) and different camera types. This will lead to

- Crop management maximizing yield and quality in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Objective and frequent observations of genotypes in a breeding context
- A continuous monitoring of the health status and related detection of diseases on potato plants.

■ Profile:

Candidates should hold an MSc degree, with preference towards bio-engineering or civil engineering, or equivalent through competence or experience. A minimum level of technical competence is expected. A scientific attitude is necessary. Experience in experimental setup, data processing (statistics) and sensors or image processing is appreciated. Holding a driver's license is recommended.

■ Practical information:

Candidates may contact dr. ir. Koen Mertens (koen.mertens@ilvo.vlaanderen.be ; +32 9 272 28 21) or dr. ir. Peter Lootens (peter.lootens@ilvo.vlaanderen.be; +32 9 272 28 55)) for more information regarding the content.

For more information regarding the scholarship and legal procedure: dr. Björn Possé (bjorn.posse@ilvo.vlaanderen.be ; + 329 272 25 37), Onderzoekscoördinatie ILVO, Burg. Van Gansberghelaan 96 bus 1, 9820 Merelbeke.

Interested candidates are encouraged to send a letter of motivation and CV, **before August 1st 2014**, to the Administrator-General of ILVO, [Joris Relaes](mailto:Joris.Relaes@ilvo.vlaanderen.be) (Joris.Relaes@ilvo.vlaanderen.be).