

Maxwel Coura Oliveira

WEED SCIENTIST · DATA ANALYST

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Syngenta Crop Protection

October 13, 2020

P.O. Box CH-4002
BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Post-Doctoral Fellow (m/f/d) Ecological Modeling (Postdoc) - (18021713)

Dear Sir/Madam

About Me

I am a Research associate/data analyst of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (remote) and a Assistant Professor of Weed/Data Science at the Western São Paulo University in Presidente Prudente, São Paulo, Brazil. My primary research interests are weed ecology and resistance, ecological modeling, big data, and machine learning. I am happy to find your vacancy on the Syngenta's site which perfectly matches my qualification and experience.

Current career?

My academic and professional qualification has been considerably acquired by studying and working in Brazil and in the United States (US). In particular, I obtained a Bachelor (BSc) and Master (MSc) degrees in Brazil, and a PhD in the US. Prior to my BSc graduation, I have spent 12 months on job training through The Ohio Program in the US. After my MSc degree, I was hired to work with specialized fertilizer sales in the Amazonian region of Brazil. My role was sales management trainee in the French company TIMAC Agro. I was being prepared to manage a team of fertilizer sales. I worked closely with the company marketing, regional manager, and palm oil/corn/soybean growers. During that time, I quickly realized that research rather than sales, was the path that I wanted to follow in my career.

In 2014 I joined the University of Nebraska to pursuit a PhD in Weed Science. I have worked on several projects on weed research in the field, lab, and greenhouses under supervision of Dr. Stevan Knezevic, Dr. Todd Gaines, Dr. Amit Jhala, and Dr. Franck Dayan. Thus far, I have 9-years of relevant experience conducting research in modeling weed biology, ecology, resistance, and management. I have published high quality manuscripts in prestigious peer-review journal. During my time in Nebraska, I became an avid user of the statistical programming language R. At the University of Nebraska, I took several courses related to data analysis/ecological modeling in R, and I also took several online R courses, including on Coursera and Dataquest. I use R to optimize research through GitHub, data visualization, data analysis and others. For example, I was responsible for analyzing a complex data set from the published manuscript "Off-target movement assessment of dicamba in North America", and modeling crop-weed competition in additive design: "Additive design: the concept and data analysis", where I have also provided R codes used in the published manuscript.

Last but not least, I have relevant experience of teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels in the field of biology, weed science, and data science in the United States and Brazil. For instance, I was an instructor of a R workshop that I helped to organized for the 2019 North Central Weed Science Society Meeting (NCWSS). In this workshop I taught to NCWSS members about data manipulation, herbicide dose-response analysis, and using R markdown as a research tool. I am also a founder and the editor of Open Weed Science, a community in which students and professionals are invited to share their skills in data analysis. The goal of Open Weed Science is to increase reproducible coding in weed research. I have also mentored a large amount of students in Brazil and in the US about data analysis in R. Meanwhile, I am developing my skills to become better qualified in data science to obtain a top data science/research position.

Industry goal

My great goal is to become a high-ranked ecological data scientist. It has strongly motivated me to gain specialized knowledge in Brazil and in the US. On the other hand, I really want to gain valuable experience of research at a leading science-based agtech company in the world. Working as an Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Syngenta Crop Protection, will be definitely an excellent opportunity for me to turn my great goal into action.

With a strong background in biological research, statistics and computer programming, I would be confident to fulfill your requirements.

I am looking forward to your positive reply.

Sincerely,

Maxwel CouraOliveira