

Horizon Ag-Products, LP
1450 Infinite Drive
Louisville, CO 80027

July 18, 2018

Dear Horizon Ag representative,

Following a desire to develop research-driven and thoroughly-tested products to advance sustainable farming practices and with the necessary organizational and scientific skills, I seek to apply for the position of Research Technician at Horizon's R&D laboratory. After a B.Sc. in Biology and participation in the iGEM (international Genetically Engineered Machine) competition, I received a M.Sc. in Biology before working with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Rome. During different research project I had the opportunity to work independently and as part of a team on different projects, gaining strong problem-solving skills, precise attention to detail and excellent communication skills. Furthermore, I have a proven ability to adapt to new challenges, am eager to learn and dedicated to providing a functioning, clean, and efficient work environment.

During my B.Sc. thesis I worked with *Nannochloropsis oceanica* and *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* and for my M.Sc. thesis I cultivated and processed *Synechocystis* sp. PCC 6803 ([Publication](#)). These experiences have left me well equipped with analytical and critical thinking skills and apt at gathering and analyzing scientific data. The wide array of lectures and courses I took in plant sciences, translational biology and microbiology has meanwhile left me with a solid foundation to genetically alter different organisms, analyze and translate genetic pathways like CRISPR-Cas systems and implement published methods. More generally, I have consistently shown I can quickly learn and trouble-shoot new procedures and protocols. For instance, during a reorganization of my current lab, I was tasked with establishing protocols for the production and quantification of viral vector tools in mammalian cell culture using techniques that were new to both my supervisor and me. During this time, I also began working in a BSL2 environment and am aware of the importance of stringently following safety guidelines and maintaining a clean, safe and efficient working environment.

In addition to what I learned from my studies, iGEM gave me the chance to work within an interdisciplinary team of 20 students and to present our team's findings to an international audience. iGEM also gave me a chance to hone my skills in organization and the daily upkeep of a lab, including ensuring the availability of reagents, approaching companies and funding agencies for financial or material aid, cleaning and sterilizing equipment and using an internal wiki for accurate and reliable data storage. Although my specific focus during iGEM was protein purification, I also taught myself adobe illustrator in order to generate higher quality designs for our [website](#).

In addition to a strong proficiency in Microsoft office suite, I took the initiative to further develop and organize the facility's database (FileMaker) at my current position - leaving me with excellent organizational skills able to maintain and improve data recording and storage. I have also attended a professional course on presenting with impact and project management for scientists and am able to apply these techniques to balance multiple projects at once while managing my time to keep ahead of deadlines. Finally, through a wide range of volunteering activities I have honed my interpersonal, organizational and communication skills which will help in any situation whether in the lab or presenting at conferences.

Your research is a natural continuation of my experience, skills and passions and I believe I could make valuable contributions to Horizon's R&D team. If you agree, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the position and my skills in more detail. Thank you for your time and consideration, I look forward to hearing from you and will be following up next week.

Sincerely,

Rabea Jesser