**Yasin TOPCU**

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Dear Hiring Manager,

Please accept this letter and the attached resume as an indication of my sincere interest in the “**Development Breeder (Tomato - Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa)**” opening at Bayer Aksu, Antalya, Turkey. I graduated from Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics at the University of Georgia (UGA) in December 2021. I am currently working as Postdoctoral Research Associate at van der Knaap lab at the UGA. With more than six years of experience in tomato breeding, genetics, and genomics, I strongly believe that I am well suited to this job. During my Ph.D. and post-doctoral studies, I have gain experience in advanced plant breeding technologies, advanced analytics and statistics, quantitative genetics, and bioinformatics (QTL-seq, RNA-seq, GBS, GWAS and others).

During my Bachelor of Science degree, I gained horticultural knowledge and skills from department of horticulture at the University of Akdeniz Antalya/Turkey. In 2010, As to my first invaluable experience, after a challenging application and selection process, I was granted a summer internship supplied by the Israeli Government to pursue a summer practice for two months in Kibbutz Elifaz, Eilat, South District/Israel. I experienced desert life and helped the kibbutz community for their daily practices, such as harvesting, irrigation, fertilization in the Medjool dates and pomelo orchards. In 2012, I was honored with Valedictorian Award issued by Akdeniz University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture. My enthusiasm and passion helped me receive a master's degree at the same department focusing on postharvest physiology of horticultural crops. During my studies, I got two scholarships and one travel grant from European Cooperation in Science & Technology. Additionally, I worked with several seed companies such as Monsanto-Seminis (now a part of Bayer Crop Science) to test their advanced tomato breeding lines for postharvest quality analysis (Brix, Shelf-life, Sugar and Acids, Firmness etc.). I developed important skills of designing and setting up experiments. In addition, I was able to improve my communication skills through all the interaction with farmers and seed producing cooperatives.

In 2015, I was honored to receive an International Graduate Education Scholarship issued by Ministry of National Education (Turkey) to pursue a course of study at an institution leading to a Ph.D. degree in the field of “Vegetable Breeding.” After I had attended an Intensive English Program at the University of Alabama, English Language Institute in 2016, I started my PhD research projects in the Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics at the University of Georgia (UGA) under the supervision of Dr. Esther van der Knaap. My Ph.D. work mainly focused on molecular and genetic aspect of the Blossom-end Rot, which is a physiological disorder in tomato. Additionally, I was able to map a QTL conferring a cell size and chlorophyll content in tomato using a biparental population. Specifically, I conducted QTL mapping analysis and identified several loci in tomato. During my PhD, I gained invaluable experience in experimental designing, R and bash programming, biological and genomic data analysis, and bioinformatic pipeline development through my PhD research and lab projects. Furthermore, I took several plant breeding, bioinformatic, statistic, genetic, and crop physiology classes. To communicate and discuss my work, I attended several conferences such as CROPs, Plant and Anima Genome (PAG), Solanaceae Conference (SOL) across the United States. Over the years, my works have led to two scientific publications and presentations. After successfully defending my Ph.D. in 2021, I have been working as Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies, University of Georgia. Over the past year, I have had an opportunity to work with tomato fruit weight, shape, and flavor QTLs. Currently, I have been helping to finemap these identified QTLs and knock out candidate genes using CRISPR-Cas9.

With more than six years of experience handling genomic data sets and performing bioinformatics analyses, I am well suited for this role. With abovementioned aspect and qualifications, I believe that the diverse skills, qualifications and experience I possess will make me an asset to the organization and will help it grow.

In my resume, you will see that I have developed the qualities and skills you are looking for in this “**Development Breeder (Tomato - Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa)**” position through my previous work experiences. I strongly believe Bayer is an excellent organization and platform for scientists to translate their valuable knowledge and skills into practical applications in the field. Further the vision of Bayer, “Health for all, Hunger for none” aligns with my life goal of being a breeder to solve world food problems. With my extensive expertise, I am highly confident I can help ensure your establishment succeeds and reaches its goals. I would be of great asset to Bayer in the following areas:

* Excellent knowledge of plant breeding, genetics, and genomics
* Six plus years of experience in QTL mapping, cloning genes, and trait introgression for crop improvement
* Six plus years of experience of QTL-seq, RNA-seq, GWAS, GBS, R programming, and experimental design
* Excellent team player with proven track record of personal and team achievements
* Strong work ethic, excellent leadership skills, and positive attitude even under pressure

Finally, I believe that my time in my PhD and post-doctoral research has prepared me well for this opportunity, and I sincerely hope I can contribute soon as a member of you team. While it is early in my professional career, you will find that I exhibit a powerful combination of proven expertise, solid communication skills, excellent leadership, and extensive hands-on experience.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please feel free to reach out to me at my personal number (470-3282021) or by email ([yasin.topcu@uga.edu](mailto:yasin.topcu@uga.edu)).

Best regards,  
**Yasin TOPCU**