
PhD Position 'Economic and behavioural perspectives of investing in modern agricultural production systems in China'

Job description

We invite applications for the PhD position entitled: '**Economic and behavioural perspectives of investing in modern agricultural production systems in China**'. This research will be carried out in cooperation with different plant science groups of WUR and is part of a larger project financed by Lankuaikei Agriculture Development (Shanghai) Company Limited (LAD).

Chinese consumers demand for safe and high-quality agricultural products. One way to fulfil this demand is to scale-up domestic agricultural production. Chinese agriculture is in transition, and its structure is shifting from traditional, small-scale farming systems to modern, large-scale farming systems. Agricultural management also changes from family-owned to investor-owned businesses. Policy makers and investors require more quantitative information of the economic feasibility of, and willingness by producers to adopt modern agricultural production systems.

The prospective PhD candidate will utilize technological information for assessing the investment potential of greenhouse and open field production systems. The investment potential will be assessed economically, by analysing e.g. risks and returns, and behaviourally, by analysing which social-psychological factors drive investment behaviour.

Requirements

For this PhD position we are looking for an enthusiastic result-driven candidate with a Chinese nationality and a MSc degree in either (1) agricultural or business economics or (2) agricultural sciences with a proven interest in economics. Ability to work in a multidisciplinary team of social and natural scientists, and proficiency in English, written and spoken are important. Excellent analytical and scientific writing skills are required, next to collaborative skills.

Conditions of employment

We offer a temporary position for a period of 18 months year with extension to four years after successful evaluation. The candidate will be employed by LAD, but will follow a standard WU PhD-training program. LAD offers the following gross yearly salary schedule (in RMB): 1st yr. 200k, 2nd yr. 230k, 3rd yr. 250k, 4th yr. 270k, and a holiday allowance of 8% of the annual salary. The student will enrol in the Graduate School of Wageningen School of Social Sciences is expected to defend in the thesis at WU within the regular term of four years.

Organisation

The PhD project will be carried out for 40% at the LAD location and 60% within the Business Economics (BEC) group of Wageningen University. BEC holds a strong position in interdisciplinary research with key areas, such as food supply chain economics, bio-economic modelling, and economics of animal health, food safety and plant health. Also, BEC is active in measuring and modelling performance and risk management of agro-supply chains and farms. Research is commissioned and funded by the Dutch government, the EU, non-governmental organisations, food processors, wholesalers, feed companies, pharmaceutical companies as well as banks, insurance companies and agricultural accountants.

LAD is a young agricultural company registered in 2017 in Shanghai, focusing on developing knowledge and systems to promote the agriculture development in China, and to apply sciences into practice. Both greenhouse and open field horticulture farms are their target groups. In addition, developing the knowledge of agri-economics for Chinese modern agriculture systems is also its main work.

Additional information

For further information about the vacancy, please contact prof. Alfons Oude Lansink (Alfons.Oudelansink@wur.nl).

Application

To apply for this position, send your CV and motivation letter before Monday October 8 to office.bec@wur.nl.