



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Research Assistant – EcoFoodSystems,

Agriculture & Bioeconomy Research Centre, Ryan Institute, College of Science & Engineering,

Ref. No. University of Galway 041-23

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time fixed-term position as a **Research Assistant** for the EU/IFAD-funded EcoFoodSystems project in the research group of Prof. Charles Spillane within the Agriculture & Bioeconomy Research Centre at the Ryan Institute at the University of Galway.

This position is funded by the **European Union (EU)** and is available immediately to project end date of 30 September 2026.

Project Title: Climate-resilient agro ecological transitions of food systems (EcoFoodSystems).

Objectives of the project:

The research and innovation goal of the EcoFoodSystems project is to develop a systems-based approach for agro ecological transitions of urban and peri-urban food systems for improved health and climate resilience. Corresponding with decision-support tools and multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate coordinated, landscape-scale transitions to navigate associated benefits and trade-offs for both rural and urban communities within city region food systems.

The EcoFoodSystems project will engage in development and co-creation of sub-national decision-support dashboards and decision-support tools in collaboration with city regional stakeholders, end-users and beneficiaries in the food systems of selected city regions globally.

See: www.ecofoodsystems.org

Job Description:

The EU/IFAD funded EcoFoodSystems project is seeking a dynamic Research Assistant who will work closely with the Lead Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators, and Project Manager to support research and innovation impacts from the project.

By 2050, more than two thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas, the majority living in cities. Food systems serve diverse farmer and consumer constituencies with differentiated impacts on sustainability, economic growth, social inclusion and nutrition. A rural-urban food systems transition focus is critical to ensuring sustainable rural development in concert with transitioning of food systems in city regions towards more sustainable, resilient, and healthy dietary outcomes. The EcoFoodSystems project places particular emphasis on linking national to subnational food systems (including data systems for decision-support) in each of the three countries to generate data and knowledge for more effective decision-making that enables climate-resilient agroecological transitions of food systems.

Led by the University of Galway, with global partners including CIAT-Bioversity Alliance, Wageningen University and Research (WUR) and RIKOLTO, the EcoFoodSystems will: (1) Develop a systems and evidence-based approach for priority-setting and targeting of landscape, value chain, community and farm scale agroecological intensification interventions/innovations that enable socially-inclusive food system and nutrition transformations; and (2) Co-create scaling strategies for agroecological innovations to enable city-Regional food systems transitions that improve sustainability, nutritional security and climate resilience in each country with relevant stakeholders.



The **EcoFoodSystems Research Assistant** will be responsible for the day to day support of research activities of the project, including supporting the management, monitoring, evaluation and communication activities of the overall research program. This will also include supporting financial support in relation to research budgets. These activities will fall under the direction of the Principal Investigator and Project Manager to support the project activities areas.

Duties:

- To support the lead PI and Project Manager in the efficient running of the EcoFoodSystems project.
- To assist the lead PI and Project Manager with the progression of milestones and delivery of research objectives in accordance with the project plan.
- Be responsible for supporting research work associated with EcofoodSystems Project management.
- To ensure that all EcoFoodSystems project budgetary and administrative tasks are done on time and to a high standard across all partners and activities of the EcoFoodSystems project. This will involve daily engagement with Agresso and other project management tools.
- To assist the program manager in research financial planning of activities, budgeting, purchasing, procurement and monitoring of spending across workpackages and activities of all partners in the EcoFoodSystems project.
- Engage in and assisting with drafting and submission of research reports and other forms of EcoFoodSystems research project outputs.
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities
- To assist with providing access to all necessary technical, scientific and business infrastructure for EcoFoodSystems researchers have to reach the goals of the project.
- Keeping appropriate records as directed and in line with Funder/University policy
- Know the legal requirements regarding data protection and confidentiality data protection requirements.
- To carry out any additional duties as may reasonably be required within the general scope and level of the post.

The EcoFoodSystems Research Assistant will be supervised by Project Lead, Prof. Charles Spillane, and co-managed by the Program Manager. The duty station is Galway, Ireland. Accommodation is not provided.

Qualifications/Skills Required:

Essential Requirements:

- BSc degree in business, accounting, administration and/or project management, with interdisciplinary research project management experience.
- Excellent data management and technical report writing skills with excellent financial and budgetary skills.
- Proficiency in use of Advanced Excel, Access or SQL.
- Excellent communication and organisational skills.
- Relevant experience in project administration and management of large multi-partner and multi-country agri-research programs (e.g. for international development donors).
- Willingness to travel to partner countries for project coordination and activities.

Desirable Requirements:

- Significant experience in international agricultural or agrifood systems development arena is an advantage.
- Excellent written and oral communication, editing, and reporting skills in English.



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- Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office software packages, with skills in relevant project management software being an advantage.
- Ability and willingness to work in and promote diverse multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environments.

Employment permit restrictions apply for this category of post

Salary: Research Assistant Point 1 €28,701 to Point 13 €38,390 per annum pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts (public sector pay policy rules pertaining to new entrants will apply).

Start date: Available immediately.

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

Further information on research and working at University of Galway is available on [Research at University of Galway](#).

For information on moving to Ireland please see www.euraxess.ie.

Further information about Ryan Institute is available [here](#).

To Apply:

Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (**in word or PDF only**) to Prof. Charles Spillane Charles.spillane@universityofgalway.ie
Please put reference number **University of Galway 041-23** in the subject line of e-mail application.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm (Irish Time) 24th February 2023

We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.

University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment



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