



## CALL FOR A POSTDOC POSITION

The research team of the Ceres Centre project “Ecological intensification of agriculture: supporting transition to sustainable agri-food systems resilient to climate change” (R23F0003) seeks exceptional and highly motivated candidates for a postdoctoral position funded by ANID and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso.

The main goal is the study of the performance of ecological intensification of agriculture under complex and dynamic environmental and socio-institutional conditions in central Chile. This project brings together Chilean researchers from the Ceres Centre, the School of Agriculture and the Institute of Geography of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso (PUCV).

We are looking for highly qualified PhD candidates with substantial experience in evaluating the provision of different ecosystem services to agriculture (i.e., pollination, biological pest control, nutrient cycle, carbon sequestration and water provision). We are interested in applicant having a background in implementing field experiments, combined with skills in data analysis and modelling using statistical software (R or similar). We are also interested in candidates capable of working in diverse teams, including undergraduate and graduate students and people working in Chilean farming systems.

### Project description:

Agriculture intensification causes declines in biodiversity, degrades soils, squanders water, and releases one-quarter of global greenhouse gas emission, therefore, becoming a mayor socio-environmental driver of global change. As a consequence, new strategies for food production must be identified and explored to cope with the present scenarios of climate and global change. A key challenge of our time, in this context, is how to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, while simultaneously meeting the increasing demand for food from an ever-growing human population. Ecological intensification (hereafter EI) has emerged as a new paradigm to enhance sustainability and harness ecosystem services for food security. It has also been proposed as an emerging solution for mitigating climate change. EI promotes conservation policies at the scale of both landscape and farms to contribute to sustaining and recovering local biodiversity; in return, this approach assures farmers the delivery of ecosystem services such as animal pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling and reduction of nutrient loss, and enhanced carbon sequestration, while at the same time promoting cultural values derived from local knowledge. By managing farms, we could develop landscapes that work for both nature and people, in response to the new Anthropocene challenges created by biodiversity loss, accelerated climate change, and unsustainable land use.

Results from this project will provide know-how for advisors, policymakers, students and farmers, as well as methods that will promote landscape-wide management of ecosystem services, allowing biodiversity protection while supporting a productive and more sustainable economy that could help in other Mediterranean areas.

Candidates must have:

- A Ph.D. in agriculture/biology/ecology or related disciplines.
- Have a strong record of high-quality scientific publications.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Spanish (if Spanish is not the native language).
- Available to start working at the latest in June 2024
- Have a driving license and driving experience in the countryside is desirable.
- Chilean citizenship or foreigners with Chilean residence (overseas candidates will need to apply for a work permit if a job offer is made).
- Be willing to collaborate and move across all the associated laboratories in Chile and overseas.

The selected candidate will have a monthly salary of \$1.350.000 Chilean pesos (ea., 1.400 USD, including taxes). Applications will be received until 15th May, and the starting date on 01th June 2024.

The position is granted until December 2025 (with the possibility of extending it by one extra year) with an annual renewal process subject to prior approval from the project's director and principal researchers (PIs) or subject to modification under the project PIs and the funding agency.

The postdoc location will primarily be based in Valparaíso Region at Ceres Centre located in La Palma locality, Quillota. Given this main location, the applicant must be available to carry out extensive fieldwork in rural areas of the region.

Evaluation criteria. Applicants will be evaluated and selected by the Project PI's following the criteria below:

- Thematic affinity with the project goals and requirements: 35%
- Number and quality of scientific publications in the last five years (since 2019): 15%
- Letters of interest and recommendation: 20%
- Personal interview: 30%

An evaluation rubric, including a Likert scale from 1 to 5, will be used for each criterion.

Content	Classification	Score
The applicant fulfills all the requirements in an outstanding way	Excellent	5
The applicant complies very well although minimal improvements are required	Very good	4
The applicant meets a good standard, but some improvements are required	Good	3

The applicant generally meets the requirements, but there are significant deficiencies	Regular	2
The applicant does not adequately fulfill the requirements	Deficient	1

Postdoctoral responsibilities:

- Dedication to the project around 30 hr/week.
- Coordination of undergraduate and graduate students.
- Design, establish, and manage field/lab experiments and fieldwork within Valparaíso region.
- Data analysis and scientific manuscript publication.
- Publish scientific articles with the project's PIs always acknowledging "Ceres/R23F0003".
- Strict confidentiality regarding project results.
- Participate in national and international scientific meetings.
- Participate in outreach activities.
- Present an annual report of activities.
- Collaborate with the project administration.

Important dates:

The application deadline is May 15, 18:00 h (Chilean time)

Notification of interview for suitable candidates: One week after

Personal interviews: End of May

To apply, please send an email to [comunicaciones@centroceres.cl](mailto:comunicaciones@centroceres.cl) including the following items in a single PDF file:

- A letter of interest maximum two pages, and personal contact information from the other two recommenders.
- Curriculum Vitae and a short description (1 extra page) of the most relevant activities related to this project.
- Copy of the Ph.D. diploma or certificate.

Please use the subject "postdoc\_ceres\_2024\_application" in your email to avoid being directed to the spam. Applications must be in Spanish or English. For more information and any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at [comunicaciones@centroceres.cl](mailto:comunicaciones@centroceres.cl).