

The mission of the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) as a nationally and internationally active research institute is to deliver solutions for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable agriculture – together with society. ZALF is a member of the Leibniz Association and is located in Müncheberg (approx. 35 minutes by regional train from Berlin-Lichtenberg). The institute maintains further locations in Brandenburg (Dedelow, Paulinenaue) as well as in Hesse (Giessen, Witzenhausen, and Geisenheim).

The project SiProtect (funded by the BMBFTR) is a multidisciplinary consortium investigating silicon-based strategies to enhance rye resilience against biotic (insect pests, viruses) and abiotic (drought) stress. By combining genetic diversity (cultivar mixtures) with amorphous silica (ASi) applications, the project aims to develop sustainable, climate-resilient cropping systems.

We are seeking to fill the 65% position as soon as possible, with a fixed-term contract until December 31, 2030 at our location in Müncheberg, as a

Research Associate (m/f/d)

with the possibility for a PhD

54-2026

Your tasks:

- Analyze the effect of new ASi products on soil water retention curve within the SiProtect consortium
- Testing different materials containing ASi, regarding their suitability for agriculture
- Analyze how Si is attached to leaf surfaces after Si-leaf-spray application by SEM-EDX
- Analyze Si in soil and in plant tissues from automated mesocosm and field experiments conducted within the SiProtect consortium
- Collaborate with all partners in the SiProtect consortium
- Publish and present research results in high-impact peer-reviewed journals and at international conferences,
- Contribute to knowledge transfer activities with agricultural practitioners

Your qualifications:

- A master’s degree in Soil science, Plant physiology, Geoecology, Agronomy, Ecophysiology, Environmental Science, or a related field
- Strong background in soil chemistry and/or agricultural systems research
- Excellent written and spoken English (German language skills are not mandatory)
- A collaborative, open-minded mindset and the ability to work effectively in an international, interdisciplinary team
- A driver’s license valid in Germany would be beneficial

What we offer:

- An interdisciplinary working environment that encourages independence and self-reliance

- Salary classification according to the Collective Agreement for the Public Service of the Länder (TV-L) up to E13, including annual special payment
- Support for work-life balance, certified by the "Audit Beruf und Familie" (Work and Family Audit)
- Climate-conscious organisational practices (procurement, vehicle fleet, energy management)
- Company ticket (additional discount on the Deutschlandticket)
- Mobile working options

ZALF promotes equality among all employees and welcomes applications regardless of ethnic, cultural, or social background, age, religion, ideology, disability, gender, or sexual identity. Please send your application preferably online (see button online application below). For e-mail applications, create a PDF document (one PDF file, max. 5 MB; packed PDF documents, archive files like zip, rar etc. Word documents cannot be processed and therefore cannot be considered!) with the usual documents, in particular CV, proof of qualification and certificates, stating the reference number **54-2026 until 06 December 2026** to (see button e-mail application below).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: **apl. Prof Jörg Schaller,** joerg.schaller@zalf.de, Tel. +49 (0) 33432/82-137.

For cost reasons, application documents or extensive publications can only be returned if an adequately stamped envelope is attached.

If you apply, we collect and process your personal data in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the EU GDPR only for the processing of your application and for purposes that result from possible future employment with the ZALF. Your data will be deleted after six months.

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Contact of Human resource management: personal@zalf.de

Zertifikat seit 2011
audit berufundfamilie

Leibniz Gemeinschaft

www.zalf.de