

## Post-doctoral research assistant wanted for Farm-Ecos project (Farming and Natural Resources: Measures for Ecological Sustainability)

Farm-Ecos is a Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine funded, interdisciplinary project, which aims to identify and outline the evidence base for novel, cost-effective measures to protect and enhance farmland biodiversity. The project started in June 2017 and is a collaboration between Teagasc, NUIG, GMIT, TCD and DCU. The project has conducted on-farm assessments of habitat quantity and quality (see <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32472434/>) and of indicator species diversity (see <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/icad.12383>) across a range of farming intensities in Sligo and Wexford.

We are seeking a short-term (8 month) post-doctoral research assistant (PDRA) to join this team, based in the [research group](#) of [Jane Stout](#) in the [School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin](#), but working closely with the whole Farm-Ecos team. The PDRA will:

- Use plant and insect data collected on farms in Wexford and Sligo to test and refine score cards for assessing biodiversity on farmland
- Incorporate best-practice and knowledge from other projects (e.g. EIP projects on results-based payments) and finalise score cards and rapid assessment cards into tools for future use
- Develop a framework for policy recommendations from Farm-Ecos
- Write policy notes, scientific papers, blogs and media posts to disseminate Farm-Ecos outputs.

### Key skills

#### Essential:

- PhD in ecology, agro-ecology, entomology, farmland ecosystem services or similar
- Proven ability to work in a team and to communicate effectively with other team members – the position will involve collaborative data sharing, analysis and writing
- Good quantitative and statistical skills
- Excellent written communication skills to prepare clear and precise documents and reports

#### Desirable:

- Knowledge and interest in farmland pollinators, natural enemies, and/or ecosystem services
- Understanding of agri-environmental policies, CAP, farmland biodiversity assessment
- Languages skills – must be fluent in English

**Salary:** This appointment will be made at point 1 of the PDRA scale from the [Irish Universities Association Researcher Salary Scales](#) i.e. €38,632 per annum (gross) for 8 months, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

**To apply:** please send letter of application, outlining suitability for the post, and a CV including the names and contact details of two referees, to Jane Stout [stoutj@tcd.ie](mailto:stoutj@tcd.ie) before 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Interviews will be conducted 29<sup>th</sup> September (via Zoom).

For further information contact Jane Stout ([stoutj@tcd.ie](mailto:stoutj@tcd.ie))