



SAVANNA INSTITUTE

Laying the groundwork for widespread agroforestry in the Midwest

Job Opening: Director of Research

The Savanna Institute invites applications for a Director of Research. We seek applicants who share our passion for ecological and equitable agriculture as a nature-based climate solution and who are motivated to widen the circle of who has the opportunity to inform, support, and benefit from its development. To that end, we are seeking a diversity of voices at the table and strongly encourage women, people of color, LGBT individuals, people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities, foreign-born residents, and veterans to apply.

Posted

June 8, 2021

Organization Description

The Savanna Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin and Urbana, Illinois. Established in 2013, we work in collaboration with farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders to develop perennial food and fodder crops within multifunctional systems grounded in ecology and inspired by the savanna biome. Our work aims to lay the groundwork for widespread agroforestry in the Midwest US via strategic research and education. For more information, please visit savannainstitute.org.

How To Apply

Submit a resume/CV and cover letter through the link on www.savannainstitute.org/jobs

Deadline

All applications must be received by **11:59pm CT on July 15, 2021**

Questions? Email Brandi Brandes, Administrative Director, brandi@savannainstitute.org.

Diversity Commitment

The Savanna Institute affirms the value of diversity of staff and stakeholders, and aims to foster inclusive environments and equitable outcomes of our work. We seek individuals who are committed to these goals.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Equal Opportunity is and shall be provided for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without unlawful discrimination on the basis of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law.



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This position will lead the Savanna Institute's research efforts to help scale up agroforestry in the Midwest. This position will work closely with the Institute's Co-Executive Directors, Research Fellows, and Commercialization Team. Applied research on tree breeding, agroforestry systems optimization, crop commercialization, and supply chain development is integral to realizing our vision: a multifunctional agriculture based on agroforestry systems of integrated trees, crops, and livestock and fostering ecological resilience, water quality, soil health, and vibrant rural communities.

Key activities of this position include:

- 1) Coordinate the Institute's existing research initiatives and lead the development of new initiatives:
 - a) Manage a growing team (currently 5) of researchers with diverse backgrounds in agronomy, forestry, soil science, geography, ecology, plant breeding and genetics, remote sensing, biogeochemistry, and crop physiology
 - b) Update strategic and operational plans for the Institute's research priorities
 - c) Coordinate work and relationships with the Institute's private & public research collaborators
 - d) Coordinate outreach and communication to key collaborators and stakeholders
 - e) Cultivate, solicit, write, and steward foundation and government grants to support existing and new research initiatives
- 2) Coordinate the Institute's existing tree crop commercialization initiatives and lead the expansion to new crops and practices:
 - a) Manage a growing team (currently 2) of Tree Crop Analysts researching the commercialization barriers of key tree crops. Barriers can include germplasm development, agronomic best practices, technology transfer, and supply chain bottlenecks
 - b) Cultivate industry stakeholders and funders to act on catalytic commercialization solutions
 - c) Coordinate work and relationships with the Institute's private & public research collaborators
 - d) Coordinate outreach and communication to key collaborators and stakeholders
 - e) Cultivate, solicit, write, and steward foundation and government grants to support existing and new commercialization initiatives
- 3) Lead the design & development of a multi-institution tree crop breeding initiative, which will be dedicated to continuously advancing the tree genetics needed to transform agriculture. This initiative will source promising germplasm from around the world, pursue rigorous breeding programs, and leverage the latest biotechnology and data-driven selection techniques.
 - a) Develop comprehensive strategic and operational plans for the initiative
 - b) Oversee the compilation of species-specific reports on germplasm and breeding
 - c) Work with the Director of Development to lead a capital campaign for the initiative



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Job Description

Hours: Full-time

Start Date: As soon as possible; flexible

Location: Madison, WI; Spring Green, WI or nearby

Salary: \$65,000 - \$85,000

- This position is eligible for the Institute's benefits package. Details available on request.
- This is a new position that will be part of the Institute's Executive Team and report to the Co-Executive Directors.

Required Qualifications:

- MS or PhD in plant breeding, ecology, agricultural sciences, or related discipline
- Demonstrated success in writing, securing, and stewarding research funding from both private foundations and government agencies
- A scientific publication record that demonstrates both a breadth and depth of experience
- Experience managing a team of researchers from diverse disciplines
- Experience with experimental design, data collection, and analysis

Ideal candidates will have:

- Experience in agroforestry, horticulture, forestry, grazing, or other forms of perennial agriculture
- Experience in organizational leadership roles
- Experience in industry development for tree crops or other emerging crops