

- -functieomschrijving- -

**Senior Scientific Researcher 'Changing Soil Use'**

**Alterra, Soil Science Centre, team Soil Physics and Land Use**

Vacaturenummer: ALT-08-CB-02-H

**Alterra – Soil Science Centre**

The Soil Science Centre develops knowledge on soils and in this way contributes to a sustainable use and management of the environment at regional, national and global scales. The Soil Physics and Land Use team studies the interaction between land use and soil physical processes. The team carries out applied research on water movement and transport of solutes from pore to catchment scale. Special attention is given to soil degradation and regeneration and to the development of methods for optimal land use from farm to regional scale.

Presently, the Soil Science Centre has a vacancy of Senior Scientific Researcher 'Changing Soil Use'.

**Job description**

More and more types of land use, such as the production of crops for food, fodder or energy but also urban extension, infrastructure, recreation, nature conservation, put claims on scarce spatial and environmental resources. In this problem of competing claims, the soil plays a crucial role in the assessment of the suitability of land for a specific type of land use. Sustainable soil management not only encompasses wise use of scarce resources but also offers opportunities to tackle specific soil threats. For example climate change influences soils and soil processes but proper soil management can contribute positively to the effects of climate change. Therefore, well founded alternatives for present and future land use and soil management are needed.

The Soil Physics and Land Use team is looking for a senior scientific researcher in the field of effects of land use and land use changes on the soil. The mainly model based research relates soil suitability to the physical, chemical and biological potential of the soil. As senior scientist you are responsible for the development and follow-up of research in national and international projects. You operate within a team and acts as project leader. You publish the results of your research in scientific reports and journals and you make your knowledge available a.o. by participating in international congresses.

**Requirement**

You have an academic level of education in the field of soil science and land use. A profound knowledge of especially soil physical and chemical processes is necessary. You have a university degree in Soil Science or Physical Geography. You have a PhD in a subject relevant for this job and have 5 to 10 years working experience. You have a broad (inter)national experience record, a.o. with EU projects and you have a relevant network.

You are a flexible and market-oriented person, have good acquisition skills and are a team player. Excellent communication and writing skills in English are required. You have a proven record of scientific publications and congress contributions.

You should be willing to travel abroad regularly.

**Conditions of employment**

Full time position (36 hours per week). Salary scale 12, actual salary depending on level of experience and education.

**Further information**

For further information you may contact Mr. A.J. van Kekem (team manager Soil Physics and Land Use), tel. 0317-486531

**Sollicitatie**

Uw sollicitatiebrief met CV kunt u, o.v.v. vacaturenummer, tot uiterlijk 03 April 2008 a.s. sturen naar Alterra, t.a.v. mw. C.M.A.H. Kruseman, Postbus 47, 6700 AA Wageningen. Of per e-mail: [vacatures.alterra@wur.nl](mailto:vacatures.alterra@wur.nl)