

## **Open position: Archbold Biological Station & Texas A&M Project Technician in climate-smart bioenergy crops**

**Starting Date:** June, 2024; **Application Due:** May 7, 2024

**Position:** Full-time research technician. 7-month appointment renewed annually based on performance. Competitive salary with full benefits.

**Offered by:** Texas A&M, and Archbold Biological Station

**Where:** Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch (Lake Placid, FL);  
[www.archbold-station.org](http://www.archbold-station.org)

**Research field:** climate-smart agriculture, environmental sustainability, bioenergy, biogeosciences.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Archbold Biological Station's Buck Island Ranch (BIR), and Texas A&M (TAMU) seek a full-time technician to work in a collaborative effort integrated within the Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI), a \$115 million initiative by the US Department of Energy for the development of a sustainable bioenergy industry.

The research will be conducted at BIR, a biological station that operates as full-scale working cattle ranch providing a unique platform for long-term agro-ecology research. The successful candidate will be supervised by Dr. Nuria Gomez-Casanovas (Assistant Professor in Regenerative System Ecology, TAMU), in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth Boughton (BIR Research Director and Biologist).

The project investigates the environmental sustainability of sugarcane for biofuel production. Key objectives are to investigate how climate-smart strategies (green harvest and biochar) affect yields, belowground processes and the regulation of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs; CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) of bioenergy crops.

### **THE POSITION**

This is a non-tenured, full time, 7-month position, and can be renewed annually for an additional two years, contingent on progress, and the availability of funds. Duties may change as contract or grant turnover occurs. Competitive salary with full benefits.

### **MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to learn basic biogeochemistry skills and gain experience in a wide range of research techniques and equipment, both in the field and in the laboratory, and data compilation, processing and analysis depending on experience. Field work includes assisting with the maintenance of eddy covariance towers – a state of the art method for high frequency monitoring of ecosystem greenhouse gas exchange –, direct measurements of soil CO<sub>2</sub> and non-CO<sub>2</sub> trace gas

emissions, and soil, water and biomass (plant) samplings. In the lab, the technician will aid with soil, water and biomass sample processing, and preparing and maintaining field equipment and supplies. The successful candidate will train and supervise research interns that assist with field and lab work.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

A bachelor's degree in biology, environmental science, chemistry, or related field; basic computer skills (MS Word, Excel).

## **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

Research experience in the field and in the laboratory related to biogeochemistry (e.g., trace gas flux measurements, soil and water sampling, gas chromatography, eddy covariance); experience working on farms and with farmers; experience working in subtropical and tropical sugarcane plantations and rangeland. Demonstrated knowledge of troubleshooting environmental monitoring equipment is desired.

## **THE STATION**

The position is located at BIR, a 10,500-acre cattle ranch near Lake Placid, FL, with potential shared housing available on site. Here are two documentaries about Archbold's Buck Island Ranch: ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6\\_WhY3aZBo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6_WhY3aZBo) , [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGV\\_G6dnYHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGV_G6dnYHg) ). Buck Island Ranch is separated from the main Archbold Biological Station by about 20 miles.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

### **Applicants should send**

- 1) a letter of application,
- 2) a resume or CV with relevant coursework and experience, and
- 3) names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for three references

**To:** Dr. Nuria Gomez-Casanovas at [nuri.gomez-casanovas@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:nuri.gomez-casanovas@ag.tamu.edu)

With **Subject:** '*CABBI climate-smart project technician*'

Application deadline is **May 7, 2024**. The position will remain opened until filled.

Contact Dr. Gomez-Casanovas via e-mail for more information.

Candidates must be eligible to work in the United States.

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