

A postdoctoral research associate position is available in the newly established Soil Biology laboratory of Dr. Lisa Tiemann in the Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences at Michigan State University. I am seeking a highly motivated individual to work with me on an ongoing project in western Uganda, exploring the causes and consequences of soil fertility loss around Kibale National Park. This research is funded through NSF's Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) program and as such, provides opportunities for interdisciplinary research in the areas of soil microbial ecology, biogeochemistry and social science. For a project summary visit: <http://lisatiemann.weebly.com/soil-sustainability-in-uganda.html>

The position will include the following activities and responsibilities:

- Travel to Uganda for 6 weeks in the summer of 2015 where the research associate will oversee collection of household survey data and soil samples and soil fertility education efforts in local primary schools.
- Laboratory duties will include conducting and/or overseeing soil biogeochemical analyses and genomic work including DNA and RNA extraction, PCR, quantitative-PCR, gene sequencing and gene expression.
- In addition, the research associate will assist with lab organization and mentoring students working in the lab.

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. in soil biology, soil ecology, biogeochemistry or a closely related field with preference given to those with experience working in agricultural or managed systems and a working knowledge of GIS. Strong candidates will also possess the following attributes:

- A strong publication record from their Ph.D. (papers published, in press, or submitted).
- Creativity, independence, and the desire to learn new things.
- The ability to implement outreach and education activities.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.

The position is available for 2 years and includes a competitive salary and full benefits. Application review will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. A start date of January 5, 2015 or sooner is preferred. All questions about the position and application materials should be submitted to litiemann@msu.edu. Applications must include 1) a brief cover letter (no more than 2-pages) that highlights past research accomplishments, describes future research goals, how those goals can be integrated into the current project in Uganda, and experiences applicable to working in a developing country; 2) curriculum vitae and; 3) the names and contact information for three references.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. The University actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.