The Leibniz-Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) aims for excellence in horticultural research and related plant, environmental and social sciences. IGZ is based in Großbeeren close to Berlin and is a member of the Leibniz Association (WGL). IGZ conducts strategic and international research for the sustainable production and use of vegetables, contributing to food security, human well-being and the conservation of natural resources. At IGZ, researchers from different disciplines work together on core-funded and grant-funded projects, in collaboration with national and international research partners.

The scientist will be part of the research group “Temperature sensing in plants”. Our group is interested to understand the molecular mechanisms of temperature perception in plants. This knowledge will help us to contribute to the breeding of climate resilient crops.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious

Postdoctoral Researcher in plant temperature sensing (f,m,d)
Reference number: 16/2022/1

Employment will be initially for three years.

The salary will be based on qualification and research experience according to the wage agreement TV-L, salary domain east, up to EG 13, full time. The position is suitable for part-time work.

You will be a team player, interested in working in an interdisciplinary programme to understand how temperature sensing mechanisms operate at the cellular level. The project seeks to understand how Prion-Domain proteins influence transcription in response to temperature. We are specifically interested in the earliest events following temperature perception and how these influence the transcriptional activation of temperature responsive gene expression.

Tasks include
• analysis of the effect of PrD variation on temperature dependent gene expression
• creation of assays to analyse the dynamics and responsiveness of gene expression in response to temperature
• original research tasks investigating temperature responsive transcriptional networks
• working with other team members to analyse and investigate experimental datasets
• writing scientific publications and presentation of results to international scientific audience

We are looking for candidates with
• a PhD in biology
• experience in developing and implementing assays for single cell transcriptional dynamics
• good skills in plant husbandry
• readiness to work together with students and technicians
• high sense of responsibility, accurateness, and ability to focus
• readiness to integrate into an international working environment
• good proficiency in English (both oral and written) and ability to work in a team

We offer
• a challenging job in plant sciences
• an inspiring and dynamic research environment, including state-of-the-art research facilities
• extensive supervision and an exciting project of considerable fundamental and applied relevance
• flexible and family-friendly working time models
• a place of employment located close to Berlin and Potsdam

Please send a motivation letter stating why this is an interesting topic for you as well as your CV, names of two references, copies of academic certificates and indicate your earliest possible starting date.

Contact: Prof. Philip Wigge (+49(0)33701 78 411; wigge@igzev.de). Further information can also be found in recent publications from our lab (e.g. Jung et al. (2016) Science 354:886, Ezer et al. (2017) Nature Plants 3:17087 and Chung and Balcerowicz et al. (2020) Nature Plants 6: 522).

We encourage a healthy work-life balance. The IGZ attaches great importance to equal opportunities. Applicants with disabilities will be given preference in case of equal qualifications. The IGZ embraces diversity in its workforce, and welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, belief or ethnic origin. In an effort to increase the proportion of female employees in this area, we specifically urge women scientists to apply for the position.

We prefer to receive applications by email to personal@igzev.de in pdf format by 17.07.2022. Our postal address is: Personalbüro, Institute for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Theodor-Echtermeyer-Weg 1, D-14979 Großbeeren.