Research Scientist, Breeding and Genetics
Plenty, Inc.
Laramie, Wyoming
Apply here!

At Plenty, we’re on a mission to give people in local communities everywhere access to the freshest, most amazing tasting produce possible. And to do so in a way that’s better for the planet.

About Role

Plenty is a rapidly growing indoor agriculture start-up with a strong vision for the improvement of the consumer experience and the availability and nutrition of agricultural products. The Plant Science team is seeking a Research Scientist, Plant Breeding and Genetics to lead molecular breeding activities as part of an integrated breeding program in coordination with the program lead.

The Research Scientist, Plant Breeding and Genetics will develop new high-quality flavorful varieties of diverse crops including, but not limited to, tomatoes and other fruiting crops for adaptation to indoor vertical farming. In addition, they will support variety screening trials for new product development.

What You'll Do

- Establish a scientific laboratory to execute molecular breeding activities
- Utilize all relevant molecular technologies including MARS, MABC, GWAS, GS for development of successful commercial products of tomatoes and other fruiting crops for controlled environment
- Perform genomic analyses using high-throughput genotyping/sequencing and phenotypic data for molecular breeding, including genomic selection
- Assist with variety trials for screening of diverse crops in collaboration with the breeding program lead and multidisciplinary R&D team to determine high-quality varieties for new product development
- Understand and determine the most important traits for control environments in collaboration with Plenty’s R&D, new product development, and marketing teams
- Build relationships with commercial sources of high-quality germplasm; interacting with both public and private institutions
- Discover and source economically valuable germplasm for improved traits based on market feedback
- Manage accurate breeding databases
- Initiate, manage, and complete research in controlled environments such as small growth rooms and chambers; conduct analysis, interpret findings, write reports, and make recommendations
- Recruit, train, and develop research support personnel
- Prioritize tasks in accordance with company goals; demonstrate flexibility to adapt approaches that are more effective and efficient to meet deadlines
What We're Looking For

- PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics with minimum of 2 years of experience OR Master's degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics with minimum of 5 years of hands-on experience (post-grad) in the vegetable seeds industry
- Thorough knowledge and working experience of genetics, plant breeding, and molecular breeding techniques (MARS, MABC, GWAS, GS)
- Ability to use breeding software programs, such as JoinMap and MapQTL; working knowledge in statistical programming (R, SAS, etc.)
- Working experience on tomato breeding is preferred
- Knowledge of predictive data analytics in plant breeding and genomics
- Understanding of pathways relevant to sugar metabolism and other flavor-related compounds in tomato
- Working experience of breeding database and software applications, processing and analyzing genotypic and phenotypic data sets
- Knowledge of crop production and seed increase
- Collaboration with the other scientists and operational personnel to execute projects
- The capability to drive and execute projects with a team
- Excellent communication
- Strong interpersonal skills, team player, self-motivation to complete projects in a timely fashion
- Highly collaborative and ability to work independently
- Detail-oriented, laser-focused, problem-solving, innovative, and solid analytical skills
- Experience in project planning and management

About Plenty

Plenty is here to change the way people eat, making extraordinary flavor and nutrition more available in a way that's better for people and the planet. We build farms that can put craveable flavor first while delivering exceptional yields. And our produce is always pesticide-free and grown using less than 1% of the land and 5% of the water of outdoor farming.