



Sustainability, Agriculture
& Technology Laboratory

西湖大學
WESTLAKE UNIVERSITY

Funded PhD position – Farmers Communication Networks

The Sustainable Development Goals aim to chart the path towards a better and sustainable future for all by 2030. In agriculture, sustainable systems are urgently needed that prioritize diversification to meet global food demand, improve food security of small-scale farmers, and preserve the environment. Developing innovative digital technologies and finding strategies to empower small-scale farmers will be critical to achieve the change.

The Sustainability, Agriculture & Technology Lab (<https://www.sat-lab.tomcwanger.com>) of the Westlake University offers a PhD position (m/f/d) for an excellent and highly motivated candidate with interest in multidisciplinary research in global agriculture and digital technologies. The project will focus on bridging the gap between technological development, understanding farmers needs, and application of the technologies in the field. The PhD student should coordinate the work with software developers, network with scientists, and lead the publication in international journals.

The position will be based in the SAT lab in China and flexible arrangements can also be discussed for the right candidate.

Job Responsibilities

- Develop a comprehensive research project
- Network with and understand scientists and farmers
- Coordinate the work of software developers
- Implement new communication strategies in the field in China and globally
- Publish international journal articles
- Be a pro-active member of the SAT lab

Job Requirements

We are looking for highly motivated PhD students with

1. a MSc in (agro)ecology, sociology, or computer science, and willing to substantially broaden their scope of work.
2. skills in one or more of the following areas: experience to work with rice, cocoa, coffee farmers in the field, Google Earth Engine, and (Bayesian) data analysis (preferably in R or Python).
3. very good language skills in English are required.
4. team management experience is a plus
5. ideally publications in scientific journals.

The candidate is expected to work well individually, in a team, and to integrate in an interdisciplinary and international group.

Compensation and Benefits

Competitive PhD Salary. **Start date: 1st of September 2021. Ideally, candidates can join the lab immediately as payed visiting students.** The planned duration of the project is three years. The doctoral thesis will be done as a series of English manuscripts. We offer the membership in an international research team and modern facilities.

How to apply

Please use the online-portal (https://en.westlake.edu.cn/admissions_aid/graduate/) to submit your application in English **latest by 1st of March 2021**. Application document must include a cover letter, a short summary of research interests, CV, complete certificates, and the names (with email addresses) of two potential referees. Interviews of invited candidates will be held in March/April 2021.

For questions please contact **Prof. Thomas Cherico Wanger** (tomcwanger@westlake.edu.cn).