

The Department of Soil Biology (Institute of Soil Science and Land Evaluation) at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart (Germany) invites applications for a

**PhD position on  
EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES ON SOIL ORGANISMS AND THEIR ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS AT  
THE LANDSCAPE SCALE**

For the joint project NOcsPS 2.0 ([www.nocsps.de](http://www.nocsps.de)), the University of Hohenheim is seeking to fill a scientific position with a scope of 65% (remuneration according to TV-L E13) with a limited duration until 31.12.2028. The position is based in the department of Soil Biology (Dr. Sven Marhan, Prof. Dr. Ellen Kandeler) (<https://bodenbiologie.uni-hohenheim.de/>).

The recruited PhD candidate will work in the soil biology group and collaborate with other members of the BMFTR research consortium NOcsPS 2.0 ([www.nocsps.de](http://www.nocsps.de)). The successful applicant will investigate the large-scale effects of chemical-synthetic plant protection on soil microorganisms, soil mesofauna (springtails and mites) and soil macrofauna (earthworms) and their ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes in Baden-Württemberg, southern Germany. Soil fauna diversity will be assessed in the field (earthworms) and in collected soil samples using heat extraction (mesofauna) and phospholipid-fatty acid analysis (soil microorganisms) as well as DNA metabarcoding. The landscape-scale studies will be accompanied by a long-term crop trial on the University of Hohenheim's experimental farm.

**Position requirements**

- An excellent Master's degree (or equivalent) in biology, ecology, agricultural sciences or a related field.
- A strong interest in quantitative community ecology.
- Experience of independently organising ecological experiments and/or field studies
- Good knowledge of statistical data analysis (preferably using R software).
- Experience with soil fauna taxonomy would be an asset but is not required.
- A driving licence (class B, passenger car) for field work
- Good written and oral communication skills in English. Basic German language skills are required for communication with landowners and stakeholders.
- Ambition to publish in international scientific journals

**Benefits**

We offer a PhD opportunity in a topical research area of high societal relevance. Using a broad methodological spectrum and interdisciplinary approaches, the soil biology group aims to better understand the functional diversity of soil organisms in a changing environment. The University of Hohenheim is located on a beautiful campus in the southern German city of Stuttgart, which offers a rich cultural life and attractive surroundings.

The preferred starting date for the position is **1<sup>st</sup> December 2025**. Funding is guaranteed for 36 months. Salary and benefits are based on a German public service position (TV-L E13, 65%, for further information see <http://oeffentlicher-dienst.info/tv-l/west>). The University of Hohenheim seeks to increase the proportion of women in research and strongly encourages women to apply. Given equal qualifications, preference will be given to candidates with disabilities. The place of employment is Stuttgart/Germany.

**Application**

Applications and inquiries should be sent before **15<sup>th</sup> September 2025** via e-mail to Sven Marhan: [sven.marhan@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:sven.marhan@uni-hohenheim.de)

Please submit your application as a single PDF file. This file should contain a cover letter describing your motivation to apply, a CV including relevant certificates and contact details of 2 potential referees.