



Full-time PhD Proposal: *'Building a (self-)reflexive agroecological assessment matrix/method through a thorough analysis of Cambodian case-studies'*

Kevin Maréchal (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech/ULiège) and Philippe Baret (Sytra/UCLouvain) are looking for an enthusiastic PhD candidate to participate to a collective research endeavour on agroecology-related issues in Cambodia. Coming from a distinct disciplinary background (i.e. Economics and Agronomy), they share a strong research experience on transition studies applied to agri-food systems. Drawing on previous collaboration, they will thus jointly supervise the doctoral research. The latter will also be carried out in close connection with two Belgian University NGOs (i.e. *Eclosio* and *Louvain Cooperation*) which have a long-held experience in implementing together with local stakeholders projects on agroecology transitions and in contributing to researches on the topic. Altogether, these four actors jointly participate to the ASSET project. The aim of this international research project involving several universities is to develop and promote a shared vision of Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions in South-East Asia through a comprehensive approach that includes research, networking, policy advocacy, capacity development, awareness raising and communication.

In connection with the ASSET project, the proposed PhD project builds on a genuinely interdisciplinary perspective and is envisioned through an action-oriented and field-based type of research. It will mainly focus on the sustainability appraisal of agroecological practices and models based on a systemic and multidimensional assessment of a wide array of performance-related aspects. This will not only require the identification and assessment of existing tools but also the design of new ones with the aim of accommodating for local and situated knowledges regarding the relevance of the strategies deployed by actors on the field.

The planned starting date for the PhD research is October 1st, 2021.



Skills required:

- A Master's degree (120 ECTS) in Agroecology, Economics, Bioscience Engineering, Geography or any equivalent in a scientific discipline related to the PhD topic
- Knowledge of agroecology-related issues and familiarity with assessment methods (qualitative and/or quantitative)
- Interest and capacity to adopt a systemic approach of food issues, to call in different disciplines, and to explore related questions (as nutrition, gender and social equity, ...)
- Good capacity to fit in a team and to adapt to potentially changing field and project circumstances
- Autonomy, a keen interest for research and analytical abilities
- Excellent writing skills in English
- Knowledge of French is an asset

Benefits:

- A four-year scholarship (submitted to a yearly approval procedure) covering the full costs of four research stays in Belgium (with a duration of about five months each) as well as the overall costs under local conditions for the remaining months spent in Cambodia
- The participation to a stimulating interdisciplinary research dynamic within a challenging and inspiring work environment
- An ambitious project with important societal consequences
- Supervision from experienced scientists within the field and from thematic referents of University NGOs active in the field of agroecology transitions with a local office and team in Cambodia.

Send your CV including a detailed academic record as well as a motivation letter before

August 15th, 2021, to the following addresses: K.Marechal@uliege.be ;

philippe.baret@uclouvain.be

Selected candidates will be invited for an interview in the beginning of September 2021.