Based in East Malling in Kent, NIAB EMR is an internationally renowned plant science organisation conducting research on horticultural crops and their interactions with the environment, with particular emphasis on perennial and clonally propagated fruit crops. NIAB EMR became part of The NIAB Group in February 2016. NIAB is the UK’s fastest growing crop science organisation, with rapidly expanding research capabilities in plant genetics, agronomy, farming systems and data science, the largest national field trials capability, and strong research links with industry, government and academia. Employing more than 300 people across the UK, NIAB provides scientific research, technical services and practical advice to improve the yield, efficiency and resilience of crop production across the arable, forage and horticulture sectors both nationally and internationally.

**RESEARCH LEADER- NEW BREEDING TECHNOLOGIES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

We are seeking a scientist to play a leadership role in in the Genetics, Genomics and Breeding department (GGB at NIAB EMR, leading the research theme: New Breeding Technologies and Biotechnology. NIAB provides a vibrant, multi-disciplinary research environment with access to core facilities supporting bio-imaging, bioinformatics, as well as newly equipped molecular genetics, DNA sequencing and plant growth laboratories. This role represents an exceptional opportunity to develop a career in a highly dynamic and innovative research sector, with the chance to develop links with major UK and international organisations.

Similar to the picture across the whole of NIAB which achieved a 50% BBSRC responsive mode success rate (highest in the UK, 10/20 grants), against a national average of 20% in 2015-16, GGB has a strong track record of winning funding from BBSRC responsive mode, innovate UK responsive mode and commercial funding streams. You will be expected to make significant research contributions in the area of plant biotechnology, genomics and technology development, as demonstrated by recent papers in high quality journals and competitively awarded research grant income, or convincing potential to generate income.

You must have a PhD in a relevant field and an outstanding record of excellence in research that is reflected in your publications. A track record in horticultural crops is not required, but a keen desire to learn and apply cutting edge techniques to perennial (strawberry, raspberry, apple, cherry) and annual (tomato, cucumber, pepper) fruit crops is essential. Recent developments in genome sequencing and functional genomic tools open up the opportunity to explore fundamental research questions directly in crop plants and translate that research into practice through the development of new varieties and agronomic improvements.

Example research areas that a successful candidate could develop, in one or more crops, are highlighted below:

* Single cell genomics using single molecule sequencing / other advanced technologies
* Single cell CRISPR
* Rapid and cost effective genotyping

You will work with a high level of personal initiative, utilising your strong analytical skills and expertise in molecular biology, technology development and genetics to win competitive grant funding. With industry partners, you will also have to opportunity to bid into the recently awarded BBSRC CTP for Fruit Crop Research for PhD students to support your research. You will work closely, interactively and collaboratively within and across departments in an interdisciplinary setting, so you will need excellent communication skills and the ability to build strong working relationships. You will also need to communicate your research through reports, publications and presentations both to academic and industry audiences. You will also need the flexibility and adaptability to respond quickly to priorities and meet funding opportunity deadlines at short notice.

The appointment will most-likely be at Pay Band 5, £33,696 to £39,241 per annum or Pay Band 4, £42,379-£49,533 per annum, dependant on qualifications and experience. Eligibility for higher band appointment, will be contingent on a track record of securing income through competitive research funding. We offer 25 days annual leave plus 8 days public holidays, a pleasant working environment and a company pension scheme.

Further details and an application form can be obtained by e-mail from recruitment@emr.ac.uk. Please include a detailed CV with your application. Please contact Richard Harrison richard.harrison@emr.ac.uk for informal enquiries. Closing date: 22nd September 2017.