

## **Research Fellow**

### **Examining Cellular Agriculture as a Just Transition to Environmentally, Economically and Socially Sustainable Food Systems.**

#### **Job Description**

### **The Role**

<b>Job title:</b>	Research Fellow: Examining Cellular Agriculture as a Just Transition to Environmentally, Economically and Socially Sustainable Food Systems.
<b>Department:</b>	Agricultural Science and Practice
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Senior Lecturer
<b>Location:</b>	Cirencester GL7 6JS
<b>Salary:</b>	Grade 7: £32,982 - £39,347 per annum (£34,133- £40,497 from 1 July 2025) pro rata for part time
<b>Term:</b>	Fixed Term Contract: Two Years 1.0 FTE (35hrs per week) or Up to 3.5 Years 0.5 FTE (17.5 hrs per week)

### **Purpose**

The Royal Agricultural University (RAU) is leading Work Package 6 of the CARMA (Cellular Agriculture Manufacturing) Hub Project. This seven-year EPSRC-funded transdisciplinary project focuses on developing novel foods through cellular agriculture.

Cellular agriculture focuses on the production of agricultural products from cell cultures using a combination of biotechnology, tissue engineering, molecular biology, and synthetic biology to create and design new methods of producing proteins, fats, and tissues that would conventionally come from agriculture. Work Package 6, Engaging Public and Policy, aims to help guide CARMA's research efforts and challenge its assumptions by listening to wide-ranging perspectives from the general public (as citizens) and stakeholders. In this way, CARMA plans to learn from previous debates and controversies over technologies such as GM foods. This approach is guided by the fact that policy makers, businesses and scientists invested in cellular agriculture can only address concerns by engaging openly and substantively – listening, hearing and acting in response to social and environmental concerns. Such an approach can help develop technologies that have a strong social licence.

CARMA envisions a just transition to environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable food systems, which involves novel approaches to cultivated meat and other cellular agriculture products. Its mission is to integrate transdisciplinary responsible approaches for novel cellular agriculture tools

and technologies into current food systems and to deliver sustainable food manufacturing in the UK and beyond.

To this end, WP 6 is looking for a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow with a background in the humanities and social sciences, specifically with knowledge in food systems thinking, citizens science, ethics and justice to examine and explore CARMA's vision for a just transition to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable food systems. The candidate will be expected to collaborate in an interdisciplinary context, across social science and natural science subjects.

## Key Responsibilities

Using a citizen's science and/or food systems approach, the post-doctoral research fellow will engage with various Work Packages within the CARMA project. More specifically the fellow will engage with WP4 – designing a sustainable, scalable and secure future for cellular agriculture supply chains, and WP 5 – understanding and influencing the social issues of Cell Ag, to explore and examine the vision for a just transition towards a more equitable, fair and sustainable food system in the UK and beyond. The fellow will also contribute to and participate in Work Package 6 activities i.e., the citizen and stakeholder forums.

Through close engagement with various WPs within the CARMA project, the citizen and stakeholder forum, the research fellow will focus on the following tasks:

- You will play a central role in coordinating the project, and will be directly involved in delivering social research and stakeholder engagement activities.
- You will be responsible for the day-to-day project management, keeping close track of plans, and arranging weekly meetings between the the Work Package Lead and other project partners and collaborators.
- This research work will include recruiting, conducting and analysing research participants focus groups, and organising stakeholder engagement activities including workshops.
- Lead, organise and manage stakeholder and citizens forums through a citizen's science approaches.
- Critically explore the question of a just transition within the cell-agricultural industry and sector.
- Review evidence of the state of knowledge, key gaps and areas under active debate with regard to the development of cultured meat, including organising and analysing insights from citizens and stakeholder forums and participant interviews.
- Support ongoing work to establish clear outcome indicators for the importance of proper citizen and stakeholder engagement within CARMA and the cell Ag sector in general.
- Contribute to research outputs including peer review publications, reports and conference presentations. There will be opportunities to author or co-author academic journal articles and research summaries for industry, public and policy audiences. Your role in connecting the project's strands of work will give you unparalleled insights into the research and its implications, positioning you well to contribute to outputs relating to all aspects of the project.
- Communicate and engage with wide ranging stakeholders including citizens, senior policymakers, and colleagues within CARMA
- Where possible, engage in some teaching at the RAU

## General responsibilities:

- The University is committed to equality of opportunity. All staff are required to comply with current legislation, University policies and good practice guidance.
- All staff are required to act in a way that safeguards the health and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults at all times. The post holder must be familiar with and adhere to appropriate safeguarding policies and guidance and participate in related mandatory/statutory training. Managers have a responsibility to ensure their team members understand their individual responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- All staff are required to participate in the University appraisal process and should ensure they are familiar with the process and plan time to prepare for their appraisal. Following the appraisal, staff are expected to undertake in any necessary learning and development and work towards the objectives that have been set.
- The University expects staff to attend any training designated as mandatory and to undertake learning and development activities to support their role. Managers must facilitate learning and development within their teams.
- It is a condition of employment that staff will not disclose any information obtained in the course of their duties other than to those entitled to receive it. The post holder must ensure that the confidentiality of personal data remains secure and that restricted information or highly restricted information to which they have access remains confidential during and after their employment at Royal Agricultural University. All staff must undergo appropriate data protection training as required.
- All absence from work must be reported in accordance with the University's absence procedures and recorded on iTrent.
- The University acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe, smoke free environment, to its employees, service users and visitors. It is the policy of the University not to allow smoking on University premises other than in specifically designated areas.

## University Values

As a University we have chosen five values to underpin our learning community. These are the values which we will all work by and for which we want the RAU to be known. We are:

- Collaborative - we believe in the power of working together. We are stronger as a community of practice - inspiring each other, identifying shared goals, and providing reciprocal support leads to greater success.
- Open-Minded - we are receptive to new ideas and we value the diversity of experiences and skills. We are committed to listening to everyone across the RAU community.
- Resourceful - we adopt creative approaches to achieve our goals while setting higher standards, promoting professionalism and sustainability.
- Responsible - individually and collectively we take accountability for our actions working with integrity to achieve the highest ethical standards.
- Inclusive - we acknowledge the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and are committed to maintaining an environment that seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination and respects diverse traditions, heritages, and experiences.

## Person Specification

<b>Requirements</b> The post holder must be able to demonstrate:	<b>Essential or Desirable</b>	<b>Measured By</b> A) Application Form B) Interview C) Presentation
<b>Qualifications:</b>		
PhD in the humanities and/or social sciences, specifically with a background in food systems thinking, citizens science (some knowledge in ethics and justice would be desirable)	Essential	A, B
Facilitation or project management qualification	Desirable	A
<b>Knowledge, Experience and Skills:</b>		
In-depth knowledge of qualitative research methodologies, e.g., participatory action research, citizens science	Essential	B
Experience of project management	Essential	A, B
In-depth knowledge of food system thinking	Essential	B
Experience conducting qualitative research methods, e.g., interviews, focus groups, stakeholder analysis (online and/or face-to-face)	Essential	A
Experience of organising meetings, workshops and other events	Essential	A,B
Practical experience in peer-to-peer facilitation, preferably in food and agriculture	Desirable	A
Advanced digital skills for organising and facilitating online meetings	Essential	A,B
Track record writing reports for technical and lay audiences	Essential	A
Track record creating dissemination material e.g., blogs, videos	Desirable	A
Experience seeking and securing funding	Desirable	A
Good critical thinking and intercultural communication skills, both verbal and in writing.	Essential	B
<b>Skills and aptitudes:</b>		
Pro-active and self-motivated	Essential	A,B

Able and willing to work to tight deadlines and under pressure	Essential	A,B
Able to work on own initiative and as part of a team	Essential	A,B
Able and willing to travel and work away when required	Essential	A,B
IT skills, with focus on Microsoft Office	Essential	A,B
Excellent verbal and written communication skills (including a very high standard of written and spoken English)	Essential	A,B

## Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send:

- University [Application Form](#) together with the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#) available on the University website [www.rau.ac.uk](http://www.rau.ac.uk)) – you may attach your up to date CV if you wish to add additional information.
- Details of two referees who must be people who can comment authoritatively on you as a person and as an employee in relation to the level of the post, and must include your current or most recent employer or their representative.
- Please forward to the HR Team, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS or via email to [jobs@rau.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@rau.ac.uk) stating where you saw the advert for the role
- Informal enquiries can be made to Atenchong Talleh Nkobou, Senior Lecturer [Atenchong.TallehNkobou@rau.ac.uk](mailto:Atenchong.TallehNkobou@rau.ac.uk)
- Closing date:** 1 June 2025 with **Interviews on:** 11 June 2025.
- We acknowledge receipt of all applications within two working days. If you do not receive an email from us after submitting your application, please let us know by sending a new email **without any attachments** to [Human.Resources@rau.ac.uk](mailto:Human.Resources@rau.ac.uk) so we can check if your application has reached us.
- Should you be selected for interview please be aware that we are unable to reimburse interview expenses.

**The RAU is an equal opportunities employer and we particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates as they are under-represented within the RAU at this level**