TEAGASC PhD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Protocols and strategies to minimize migration of chlorate residue into milk during the milk plant cleaning process while maintaining optimum microbiological quality”

Walsh Scholarship reference number: 2019225

Background: Chlorine and chlorine-based detergents are commonly used in cleaning milk contact surfaces on-farm and in milk processing plants. There is increasing concern about the occurrence of chlorine by-products such as chlorate and perchlorate in dairy products. To guarantee compliance in relation to such residues, all chlorine based cleaning detergents are to be removed from farms and within processing plants by December 2020. However, little knowledge is available on the effectiveness of alternative ‘chlorine free’ cleaning products and protocols in maintaining milk of high microbiological quality. This project will generate clear guidelines for the dairy industry by providing standards and guidance on the applications of cleaning protocols. The successful candidate will participate in the Structured PhD Programme in Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) to develop their research and employability skills. The candidate will work with existing milk quality research teams and will interact with other multi-disciplinary researchers. The student will be expected to develop skills in a range of disciplines’ including microbiology, chemical components of detergents, laboratory analysis and field trials.

Requirements: Applicants should have a First or Upper Second-class Honours primary degree in Agricultural Science/Food Science or related discipline. The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and be prepared for extended periods of laboratory and field work. A full EU driving licence is essential.

Award: The research project represents joint collaboration between Teagasc and the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT). The research project represents cross-programme collaboration within Teagasc involving Animal and Grassland Research and Innovation Centre and the Food Research Centre at Moorepark. The student will be registered at CIT. The academic supervisor will be Dr Ambrose Furey (CIT). The student will be based predominantly at Teagasc Moorepark, Fermoy, Co Cork under the supervision of Dr David Gleeson. The scholarship funding is €24,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

Further Information: Dr David Gleeson, Teagasc, Moorepark, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Phone +353 (0)25 42269; email david.gleeson@teagasc.ie or Dr Ambrose Furey (CIT). Phone +353 (0)21 4335875; email ambrose.furey@cit.ie

Application Procedure: Applicants should submit a CV and covering letter detailing their qualifications and experience. Application materials should be sent as e-mail attachments to Dr David Gleeson: email: david.gleeson@teagasc.ie

Closing date: 5pm Friday 10th May 2020.