Postdoctoral Research Associate in Citrus Gene Editing

The University of Florida is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral research associate to work on CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing for engineering citrus (sweet oranges, grapefruit, etc.) for resistance to citrus greening (huanglongbing), a bacterial disease that is devastating the citrus industries in the United States and many other countries. The successful candidate will be working at the University’s Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, FL 33598, which is about 25 miles to Tampa, Florida.

Responsibilities:
The successful candidate will join a research team whose goal is to engineer citrus for increased resistance to citrus greening. Research will include (but is not limited to): bioinformatics analysis of genomic and transcriptomic data, identification of candidate genes, designing of specific guide RNAs, construction of proper vectors for gene editing, Agrobacterium and/or protoplast-mediated transformation, production of transgenic plants, molecular characterization of citrus, evaluation of plant resistance to citrus greening, etc. Model plants including Arabidopsis and Nicotiana benthamiana may be used also. It is expected that research results will be published in high quality peer-reviewed journals and communicated through scientific presentations and stakeholder interactions.

Duration of Appointment:
The position is available immediately. Initial employment will be for two years, and can be renewed for up to five years, pending satisfactory research progress and funding availability.

Requirements:
- Ph.D. degree in plant genetics, genomics, breeding, molecular biology, or related plant science fields.
- Experience with CRISPR/Cas9-based gene editing, gene cloning, and Agrobacterium and/or protoplast-mediated plant transformation.
- Self-driven and having an excellent publication record.
- Strong work ethics, motivation, and creativity.
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Experience in genome and transcriptome data analysis and gene expression analysis will be a plus.
How to apply:
Send a cover letter with a statement of research interest, CV, and contact information for three references to Dr. Zhanao Deng at zdeng@ufl.edu.

Closing date:
Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.