

## **Post-doctoral positions in social sciences for studies of New Plant Genomic Techniques**

### **Call for applications**

Four post-doctoral positions in social sciences are available in the Programme de Recherche et Equipement Prioritaires « Sélection Végétale Avancée - Advanced Plant Breeding to address climate change and ensure agroecological transitions » (PEPR SVA). The PEPR SVA focuses on the development of new genomic techniques such as gene editing to support the creation of new plant varieties requiring fewer resources and/or improving soil health, biodiversity, helping to accelerate agroecological transitions (Nogué et al., 2024). The programme also analyses the conditions and impacts of developing such techniques and their effective contribution to agroecological transitions.

The PEPR SVA seeks to promote social science studies to better understand different dimensions that determine the technological trajectory of gene editing and their social uptake. The PEPR SVA welcomes STS scholars, historians, sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, economists, people working in management sciences or law, and who want to develop research on the production, regulation and use of new genomic techniques in societies. Research may focus on a variety of topics including economic, social or environmental issues, regimes of science and innovation, governance of emerging technologies, biodiversity management, agroecology transition or food systems sustainability. The geographical scope is also broad. Applicants are invited to propose analyses at different scales (local, national, international) as well as international comparisons. This call for postdoctoral applications has been implemented strategically, since no projects in social sciences were funded through the first PEPR SVA open call for research projects, operated by the ANR in 2025.

The selected post-doc fellows will undertake an original research project that fits with the PEPR SVA lines of research, notably on the following topics:

- Innovation processes, social innovations and impacts analysis of gene editing techniques toward agroecology
- Socio-technical transitions, agroecological transitions and contribution or tensions with gene editing
- Public perception, ethical issues and implications for legislation on gene editing
- Governance and regulation of techno-scientific activities on gene editing

## Requirements

Researchers holding a doctoral degree or having fulfilled all the obligations of a PhD (certified by their supervisor) in a field relevant to the PEPR SVA.

**Post-doc fellows can be hosted in any research team** whether or not it is already involved in the PEPR SVA.

The applicants are invited to contact host institutions to build their project. Furthermore, they must be jointly **supervised by scientists from two complementary disciplines: one in the social sciences and one in biology/agrosiences**. The supervisors must be identified before a project proposal is submitted.

Nine months after the start of the postdoctoral project, the selected applicants will present their research plan and initial results to the PEPR SVA Steering Committee, which comprises the Director, Programme Manager, Co-leaders of the four scientific axes and Leader of the Infrastructure. A final report detailing all results and publications must be submitted to the PEPR Director at the end of the project. Selected applicants and their co-supervisors are strongly encouraged to participate in PEPR events aimed at fostering scientific engagement within the community and disseminating research results.

## Funding and Employment Conditions

Post-doc researchers are eligible for a contract of up to 24 months, under the standard French salary and work status. Contracts can start according to candidates' constraints.

The funding covers the salary of the selected candidate (€120,000 for 24 months), as well as up to €15,000 of operating expenses. The grant will be paid to the host institution of the selected candidate once a grant agreement has been established between INRAE and the host institution. The host institution will also receive an additional 20% in overhead costs. The total funding of this call is €648,000.

## Applications

Formal applications will include:

- A one page resume/CV
- A list of publications
- A statement of proposed research (in English, 5-10 pages) including a (preliminary/provisional) budget for travel expenses. A specific dimension should deal with their contribution to the research agenda of the PEPR (see selection criteria below).
- A letter by a member of the hosting research group. The letter will state how the candidate's project will be integrated in the group, the collaboration network she or he will benefit from and the support allocated by the host institution to the candidate.

- A reference letter directly sent by their PhD supervisor (and for French candidates, their viva report)

## Selection criteria

- Quality of the research project
- Relevance in relation to the PEPR SVA (see [website](#))
- No redundancy with already explored topics within the scope of the PEPR SVA
- Quality of the integration of the candidate's project in the hosting research group
- Quality of the candidate

## Call timeline and selection procedure

This call for proposals opens on 21/09/2026.

The deadline for submission of complete applications is 02/11/2026.

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for eligibility. Any incomplete application will be deemed ineligible for the selection process.

Applications will be assessed by the PEPR SVA Steering Committee, which comprises the Director, Programme Manager, Co-leaders of the four scientific axes and Leader of the Infrastructure. Depending on the applications received, external experts will also be consulted. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview to discuss their project.

- Pre-selection and invitation of shortlisted candidates on 13/11/2026;
- Interviews conducted via videoconference between 18/11/2026 and 04/12/2026;
- Announcement of selected candidates on 04/12/2026.

**The application will be sent in one single file, pdf format, and will be registered under the following name:**

Name\_appelpostdoc\_PEPRSVA.pdf (where "name" is the last name of the candidate)

**Applications will be sent before November 1st, 2026 to: [bertille.natoly-delaunay@inrae.fr](mailto:bertille.natoly-delaunay@inrae.fr)**