

**A PhD position (with scholarship) on Value Chain Management at Wageningen University (The Netherlands) within the research programme “*Horticultural food systems based on ecologically intensive production and socio-economically sustainable value chains in the transition economies Chile and Uruguay (HortEco)*”**

**Focus of the research programme Horteco**

The PhD will contribute to the research programme HortEco.

The HortEco programme recognizes that development of ecologically and socio-economically sustainable food systems is highly important for balanced economic growth, but has remained understudied for transition countries when compared to developing or developed countries. Vegetable systems in Chile and Uruguay place high pressure on natural resources, while at the same time there is a noted lack of safe and affordable vegetables for urban populations.

Therefore the objective of the HortEco programme, funded by the Dutch Science Council (NWO-WOTRO), is to enhance the sustainability of vegetable food systems in transitioning countries by investigating and supporting organization working on the production and marketing of low-or-no-pesticide vegetables.

To achieve this objective, the programme will focus on

- i) ecologically intensive horticultural production<sup>1</sup>,
- ii) socio-economically sustainable horizontal and vertical value chain collaboration models, and
- iii) change agents in the innovation system to support the transition to sustainable horticultural farms and markets.

Knowledge development and innovation will be connected through a systemic learning-for-innovation approach, linked to nine ongoing innovation-oriented projects of private, public and academic partners in Chile and Uruguay.

For the Value Chain studies (ii above) part of this programme, we are now seeking a qualified PhD candidate for a 4-year research position at Wageningen University, with a scholarship. The PhD will be at the chairgroup Management Studies. The PhD will be locally supported by the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Chile.

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<sup>1</sup> A natural science PhD from Uruguay will work on this topic. Furthermore, a postdoc will integrate findings from the three PhD projects and facilitate the co-innovation process.

**PhD position in management studies and supply chain economics “*horizontal and vertical value chain collaboration models: arrangements to support ecological intensification and marketing*”**

Value chains play a key role in determining food availability and affordability. Vegetable marketing in Chile and Uruguay is currently characterised by limited farmer collaboration, fragmented retail, heterogeneous quality and few opportunities for value-adding. As an answer to this challenge, vertical collaboration through contract farming (CF) between farmers and agribusiness, and horizontal collaboration of ecological producer organizations (POs) are emerging in both countries to market sustainably produced vegetables for urbanising consumer markets.

Horizontal and vertical collaboration in value chains can promote sustainable socio-economic development and improve food availability and access. However, there is limited understanding how these value chain networks establish and maintain sustained market relationships. In this PhD research the focus is on **how sustainably producing farmers and processors can be integrated in value chain networks** that (successfully) address urban markets. The research will largely take place in Chile, with comparative work in Uruguay.

For this position we are looking for an enthusiastic and collaborative candidate with the following qualifications:

1. An excellent academic record in a relevant social science discipline such as Management Studies, Supply Chain Management, Economics, Agribusiness Management (Masters completed), with proven analytical skills and relevant knowledge of the agri-food sector in Chile and/or Uruguay.
2. Strong knowledge and skills regarding research design, and qualitative and quantitative approaches to data collection and analysis (e.g in-depth interviewing, survey design, quantitative data analysis (statistics; econometrics))
3. Knowledge of relevant theories on horizontal and vertical collaboration in value chains, such as Transaction Cost Economics, Collective Action, Resource Based View and Social Network theory.
4. Strong skills for both broad systemic analysis of value chain dynamics as well as in-depth analysis of specific issues
5. Proven ability to work in scientific teams and collaborate with a range of societal stakeholders.

6. Strong oral and written communication skills in English<sup>2</sup>, especially regarding academic writing and presentation.
7. Possession of a valid driving license is a plus.
8. Candidates must be fluent in Spanish.

### **How to apply?**

Applications are submitted via email to [horteco.chile@wur.nl](mailto:horteco.chile@wur.nl) Your application should be in English and include the following information:

1. An application letter explaining your motivation and aptitude for the position.
2. A detailed CV including personal details, academic training, work experience and a list of publications. Please also include language skills, computing and (academic) software skills.
3. Scanned copies of academic certificates (bachelors and masters) and associated lists of marks/qualifications for courses followed.
4. An example of recent academic/scientific writing, which can be for example a thesis or a scientific publication
5. Names and contact details (email address) of three references.

Applications must be received **by 1st of November** via [horteco.chile@wur.nl](mailto:horteco.chile@wur.nl)

Any enquiries on the PhD position can be made to Prof. Dr. Jacques H. Trienekens ([Jacques.Trienekens@wur.nl](mailto:Jacques.Trienekens@wur.nl)).

### **Further process and timeline**

Selected candidates will be invited for interviews by beginning of November.

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<sup>2</sup> If you from a non-Anglophone country and you have not completed your higher education with English as the language of instruction, you have to submit an internationally recognized Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language. Minimum required scores:

- TOEFL internet-based 90, with minimum sub-score 23 for speaking
- IELTS (academic version) 6.5, with minimum sub-score 6.0 for speaking
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) with minimum grade B
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) any grade

All test results must be dated within 24 months prior to your application

Candidates should be aware that in case of selection after the interviews, a check will be done by Wageningen PhD programme admission officers whether candidates meet all formal criteria to enter the Wageningen PhD programme. If these conditions are not met the candidate will not be admitted to the position.

For the first phase (basic PhD training and proposal development) and last phase (finalizing writing of the thesis) of the PhD trajectory, candidates will be required to stay in the Netherlands for a period of about 10 months. The second and third year of the PhD trajectory candidates will be working in Chile (possibly with research travels to Uruguay).