Evaluation of CropGro-Tomato model in Simulating Appropriate Sowing date and Nitrogen Sources in AkureNigeria
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Varaprasad (Prasad) Banduru

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Dear Dr Prasad,

My name is Titilayo Oladitan, a recently PhD graduate from the Department of Soil Resources Management, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. I am currently working on the evaluation of tomato production using CROPGRO-tomato model to estimate the best seeding window and nitrogen source in an inceptisol soil of Okitipupa, Nigeria where the soil type, climatic influence (temperature and rainfall) and management practices are the major limitation factors for its production.

I am writing to apply for the position of post-Doctorateassociates to support crop modeling activity under USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Systems funded project announced in the April 7 issue of the DSSAT@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU;Functional title:Post-Doctoral Research associate in the faculty.Myexperience inthe teaching of undergraduate related courses, and research experience in the field on data collection and analysis disciplines have provided me with the adequate information necessary to successfully assume the position that you have described.

The information through internet,and journal publications ofthe faculty researchin the GeographicalSciences affirm the rich knowledge of crop modeling,soil and land management studies. I also came across some impressive research studies from the department on Decision Support System (Modelling on crop and soil productivity) when l was searching for literature for my thesis dissertation writeup on Simulating the Growth and Yield of Tomato in response to Sowing date and Nitrogen sources in Akure, Nigeria. And indeed, one of the areas I would love to explore in my training is horticultural vegetable crop modelling.

I have a good training and experience in the design and implementation of experimental design for the research projects associated with nitrogen testing and fertilizer recommendations, implement treatments and maintenance of field experiments, interpretation of results, input data, and conduct statistical analysis and familiar with the use (Evaluation and calibration) of crop models using DSSAT and other tools. I have published some of my research findings in reputable peer-reviewed journal (see attached).

 I want to eventually lead my own investigation group as a PI in a large research institute. l brings to the table a unique perspective as someone that has focused on generating genetic crop coefficient of most consumed vegetables crops from my locality; adaptation of these varieties to new ecology for multiplication; modelling of soil type to suit to productivity and contribute my findings to the world database for technology transfer.
 l believe I could greatly benefit from pursuing postdoctoral research to advance my knowledge in crop modelling from the faculty. I am dedicated to moving my career forward and my unique perspective and background in soil science would be a valuable asset thefaculty.

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l would love the opportunity to talk with you about my current research; learn more about the fascinating work from your laboratory and discuss areas of potential synergies.

I look forward to favourable consideration.
Regards.
Titilayo O Oladitan.