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Graduate Student Assistantship M.Sc., Precision Agriculture

Supervisor: Dr. Qamar Zaman
Department of Engineering

Location: Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC)
Truro, Nova Scotia

Project:

The development of precision agriculture technologies to apply agrochemicals on a spot-specific basis, both efficiently and cost-effectively, will allow wild blueberry producers and processors to remain competitive. Uniform application of agrochemicals in highly variable fields may result in either over- or under-application. Over-fertilization may deteriorate water quality and reduce profit, while under-fertilization in some areas of the field may restrict crop yield. Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Oxford Frozen Foods Limited have initiated a Precision Agriculture Research Program to develop variable rate technologies to reduce agrochemical usage in wild blueberry cropping systems. This research study will investigate site-specific technologies comprising of sensors, controllers, DGPS/GIS and data logger to measure and map soil/crop characteristics real-time rapidly and reliably with-in blueberry fields for site-specific fertilization.

Requirements: Applicants must possess a B.Sc. Honors degree or equivalent degree in Agriculture, and eligibility to enroll in the M.Sc. Program at NSAC.

Stipend: \$16,500 annually for a two-year period.

Start Date: May 2011. **For information regarding the research project, contact:** Dr. Qamar Zaman, Department of Engineering, NSAC, P.O. Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3 Canada. Email: qzaman@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-5426, Facsimile: 902-893-1859.

For Graduate Program information or to apply, contact:

Marie Law, Research & Graduate Studies Office, NSAC. Email: mlaw@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-6502, Facsimile: 902-893-3430 or visit the NSAC website at <http://www.nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies>. Applicants must reference this specific research assistantship in their description of research interests to be considered for this position.

The Master of Science program with a specialization in agriculture is offered by NSAC in conjunction with Dalhousie University.