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Graduate Student Assistantship M.Sc., Engineering (Precision Agriculture)

Supervisor: Dr. Qamar Zaman, Department of Engineering

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

Project: One of the newest innovations in Precision Agriculture is the real-time variable rate (VR) applicators for spot-application of agrochemicals within wild blueberry fields. Motivation for the development of this type of applicator is increase field performance significantly, while lowering chemical use and costs. This type of VR sprayer does not use prescription maps, but relies on sensors/digital cameras to provide real-time weed and bare spot detection. 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 and environmental contamination in wild blueberry cropping systems. This research study will develop a cost-effective automated prototype VR for weed/plant detection and real-time spraying herbicides in a specific section where the weeds have been detected and fungicides/insecticides where the blueberry plants have been detected.

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

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

Start Date: May 2010. Deadline to apply for a May start is February 28, 2010.

All application documentation should be sent directly to the Research & Graduate Studies Office at NSAC. Applicants must reference this specific research assistantship in their description of research interests to be considered for this position.

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, Program Assistant. Email: mlaw@nsac.ca Telephone: 902-893-6360, or visit the NSAC website at <http://www.nsac.ca/research/graduatestudies>)

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