



Company: Kula Bio

Location: Natick, MA

Position title: Fermentation Process Engineer

Schedule: Full Time

Employee status: Regular

Organization:

Kula Bio is a leader in sustainable nitrogen solutions, helping farmers improve crop yield and reduce environmental impact. We make a cost-competitive biofertilizer that boosts a naturally occurring process to deposit meaningful amounts of nitrogen in the soil.

We are looking for a passionate, highly motivated, and experienced professional to join our Manufacturing group at Kula Bio. The candidate will work in a dynamic and diverse team environment to manufacture Kula Bio microbial products by operating state-of-the-art production fermenters as well as contribute to the continuous improvement of fermentation processes. We are looking for an independent decision maker able to plan and execute work orders with minimal supervision. This person is expected to provide hands-on expertise for operating and maintaining production fermenters as well as other supporting instruments. In addition to day-to-day manufacturing activities, we expect the candidate to have problem-solving skills as well as the ability to keep track of productivity targets and maintain product quality in line with regulatory compliance and customer needs. We are looking for an individual with a pioneering attitude and capable of wearing multiple hats to get the job done.

Duties:

- Ensure a safe working environment at all times to prevent any injuries and accidents.
- Set up, operate and clean production-scale fermenters and accessories.
- Perform bacteria growth medium preparation, fermenter inoculation and sampling applying standard aseptic techniques.
- Correctly, accurately, and safely handle and measure chemicals and cleaning aids for CIP/SIPs.
- Monitor, record, and report fermentation progress using key fermentation performance indicators.
- Harvest product from fermenters under aseptic conditions.

- Contribute to the management of manufacturing consumables inventory to maintain continuous operations.
- Communicate project status and train/mentor junior team members.
- Prepare microbial inoculum.
- Drive the commissioning, validation of new production fermenters.
- Support product shipping activities, as needed.
- Ensure that production outcomes are delivered against targeted commercial metrics and milestones.
- Work closely with Quality Team for timely processing of samples and taking follow-up actions based on sample analysis.
- Develop detailed and self-explanatory documentation of the workflows and tools.
- Expect occasional evening and weekend work, as needed.
- Maintain a clean workspace.
- Add value by influencing through innovation and continuous improvement

Qualifications

- Degree in Biochemical Engineering, Fermentation Biotechnology, Microbiology, or related fields
- Bachelor's Degree (or equivalent education) and 7 years of relevant, full-time industry experience, or Master's with 5 years of relevant, full-time industry experience, or Ph.D. with 3 years of relevant, full-time industry experience, preferably in the Agricultural sector.

Skills & Abilities

- Must-Have
 - Expert with planning and executing fermentation campaigns in a manufacturing setting in support of commercial team needs.
 - Excellent time and resource management skills.
 - Familiar with giving status updates to Manager.
 - Hands-on knowledge in installation, commissioning, and troubleshooting of new production fermenters.
 - Experience with setup, operation and maintenance of state-of-the-art fermenters.
 - Experience with fermenter harvesting and bottling of biologicals in an industrial setting.
 - Experience working with microbes and applying aseptic techniques in manufacturing.
 - Experience with biological product packaging for commercial use.
 - A good understanding of microbiology and biochemical principles of fermentation.
 - Demonstrated ability to learn quickly and work with minimal supervision.
 - Independently selects techniques and procedures to solve problems within area of responsibility.

- Ability to work in teams, communicate technical concepts clearly and be independently motivated.
 - Ability to use Microsoft Windows operating system, including Excel, Outlook, and Word.
 - Strong attention to detail and compliance to industry, environmental, health, and safety standards.
 - Ability to perform work area maintenance activities including area organization, chemical handling and chemical replenishment.
 - Track record of quality work and attention to detail.
 - Strong work ethic and consistent attendance.
- **Nice-to-have**
 - Experience with fermentation of plant-beneficial, soil-derived microbes.
 - Experience with commissioning state-of-the-art fermenters.
 - Experience with selecting and operating liquid packaging equipment.
 - Ability to troubleshoot and perform root-cause analyses.
 - Experience with multitasking during production campaigns.

Kula Bio has implemented a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all employees. This will be a condition of employment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

While performing the duties of this position, the employee is regularly required to see, talk and hear. The employee frequently is required to stand, walk, bend, lift up to 50 pounds, and use arms, hands and fingers for various activities. This position may stand or remain sedentary for long periods of time. This position routinely works with large pieces of equipment.

At Kula Bio, we work and live by our shared values of Innovation, Intellectual Honesty, Balance and Integrity. Our values are guiding principles to developing best in class biological products and enable farmers a cost-effective technology. For more details, please visit our company site www.kulabio.com.

If you are interested in this job, please email your resume and cover letter to admin@kulabio.com.