

Job: Agrochemical Research Scientist

What do you do?

I work as a research scientist in Syngenta's Research and Development (R&D) department.

The team I work in specialises in fungicide research, looking to find new chemicals that protect crop plants from fungal diseases.

I have to understand the structure of plant and fungal cells, and I do lots of work with DNA. The results I produce are used by chemists and environmental safety scientists.

Which part of your job do you most enjoy?

I find it so interesting that people around me are working on different crops and crop diseases. Where I work there is also a diversity of disciplines across biology, chemistry, computing and maths.

What is your average day like?

My day is split between my desk, and my lab bench where I carry out molecular biology experiments (work with DNA) and culture microorganisms. I also have the opportunity to use high powered light microscopes and a DNA extraction robot.

Dr Siân Deller

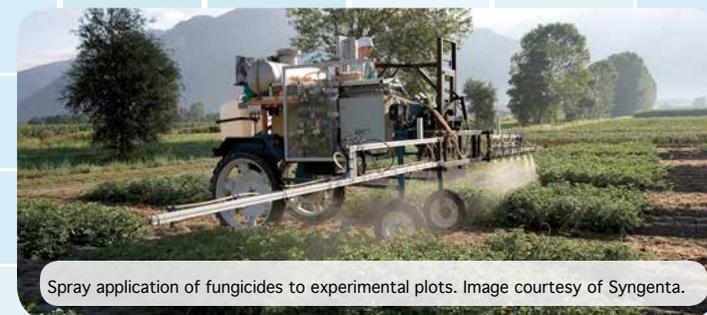


CV

- Research Scientist, Syngenta.
- Post-doctoral Research Scientist, French Institute for Agricultural Research, Versailles.
- PhD, Rothamstead Research.
- BSc in Life Sciences, Imperial College, London.

When did you become interested in plant pathology?

I was introduced to plant pathology during my undergraduate degree; I really loved the combination of plant and fungal biology. Plant pathologists identify plant diseases and the reasons disease has occurred. They also provide solutions to reduce the negative impacts.



What are the future challenges?

To feed a growing world population, it's important that farmers are able to grow healthy crops for food. As scientists our challenge is making sure that we understand how pathogens cause disease and how plants defend themselves. We can then use that information to make improvements in the crops we grow, and how we look after them.

