1) Background

**FACCE-JPI** is the European Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, which aims to align national research efforts, resources and strategies to support the transformation towards a more sustainable and resilient agriculture. In order to achieve this, FACCE-JPI instigates several activities such as funding calls, workshops and knowledge hubs.

The MACSUR Science-Policy Knowledge Hub (MACSUR SciPol) is a follow up activity to the **FACCE-JPI Knowledge Hub MACSUR** (Modelling European Agriculture with Climate Change for Food Security), which has enabled the sharing of knowledge on modelling climate change impacts on European agriculture.

MACSUR SciPol will use the expertise acquired through MACSUR and allow countries to develop strategies for adaptation, reduction and mitigation of climate change stresses and shocks. Through this transnational network methodologies and tools can be shared allowing research communities across Europe to work with similar standards. This will also enable the community to work with an ensemble of models rather than a single model, increasing the reliability of outcomes by reducing the uncertainty of each individual model. Outcomes will then be used to inform policy across Europe.

An 18-month pilot phase will start in April 2021 with a Core Group consisting of 8 countries. Each country should be represented by one early-career researcher (PDRA level or equivalent with sufficient topic related expertise) and supported by a senior researcher. The Core Group Member is expected to attend and contribute to meetings and other activities in order to achieve the objectives set out in the MACSUR SciPol pilot project.

The topics included in this Pilot Phase are as follows:

a. Climate change mitigation  
b. Climate change adaptation  
c. Climate change impacts

All three topics will also address specific national policy questions within these areas.

The pilot phase includes crops and farmed animal production and is focussed on primary production in a country or farming system type (also cross-European) context. In addition to variables (climate, GHG emissions, production, fertiliser use and nitrogen leaching, income, soil quality, employment) and key indicators (assessment of costs - economic, ecological, social), impact on the natural environment and scenarios for extreme weather events and climate stress are also included in this phase.

It is expected that the pilot phase will contribute to and result in a number of reference documents and tools, scientific publications, workshops for policy makers, and a final joint report.
2) Offer

UKRI-BBSRC is looking for an early-career researcher (PDRA or equivalent), supported by their supervisor (experienced expert in the field), to represent the UK in the Core Group of the MACSUR Science-Policy (MACSUR SciPol) Knowledge Hub pilot phase for a maximum of 19 months starting from 1 March 2021, finishing 30 September 2022.

This position offers an excellent opportunity to gain experience in working at the science-policy interface on a national and European level, work closely with other researchers in the area, establish networks, broaden transferable skills knowledge and explore career opportunities outside of academia. The successful candidate will be supported by UKRI-BBSRC staff and work closely with the MACSUR SciPol National Policy Representative from DEFRA.

The work is expected to add value to UKRI investments in an area relevant to MACSUR SciPol as it offers the opportunity to link the work of the UK community to a pan-European network of researchers in related areas. To achieve this, the UK representative is expected to work closely with the researchers and funders involved in the pilot project and to establish a link to and communication with the UK modelling community. This will thereby provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, help to strengthen existing and establish new collaborations, and shape national and international policy based directly on research outcomes.

The successful candidate, with the support of their supervisor, will be able to prioritise the MACSUR SciPol work over their other (research) responsibilities. A minimum engagement of 0.5 FTE is expected from the early-career researcher. For this, UKRI-BBSRC will contribute 0.5 FTE (up to a maximum £6,250 per month) of the personnel costs for the early-career researcher for up to 19 months (1 March 2021 to 30 September 2022). In addition, up to £6,250 of T&S budget is available for MACSUR SciPol related travel. UKRI-BBSRC will also be able to provide support for organising national workshops and meetings.
3) **Person specification**

The successful candidate should fulfil these **essential** criteria:

- Research background in a relevant area and a position in an established group in the field for at least 12 months of the pilot phase
- Ability to prioritise MACSUR SciPol Hub work over other (research) responsibilities
- Research group receives current UKRI investments in a MACSUR SciPol Hub relevant area
- Interest in science policy and the funding landscape
- Experience working in (international or multi-organisational) teams or research collaborations
- Excellent organisational skills
- Supervisor support on research expertise and the capacity to spend time on MACSUR SciPol activities
- Be able to travel nationally and overseas

Ideally, the candidate should fulfil these **desirable** criteria:

- Research group receives current UKRI-BBSRC investments in a MACSUR SciPol Hub relevant area
- Experience in strategy and policy work
- Experience in proposal writing
- Knowledge of social science or biophysical modelling
- Experience of remote collaborative working (e.g. video conferences, virtual workshops)

For further information and details please contact Anja Berndt (anja.berndt@bbsrc.ukri.org).