

Process Engineer – Protein Extraction

SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA – FULL TIME

In a world with a continuously growing population and diminishing resources, efficient food production is critically important. At Plantible, we are on a mission to create a truly sustainable global food system by inventing an efficient, sustainable way to transform plants into irresistibly delicious, nutritious food. We do this by harnessing the power of the humble, but awe-inspiring lemna. Being considered one of the world's most sustainable and nutrient dense plants, lemna contains one of the most valuable proteins in the world; a protein that behaves just like egg-whites and has an amino acid profile that is comparable to whey. That is why we at Plantible Foods are developing innovative technologies to cultivate the biomass and extract the valuable protein out of the crop. Currently, we are still in our R&D phase and operate a pilot farm in Southern California, where we are preparing for our market launch. We recently received funding from venture firms based in Silicon Valley and are now preparing for the commercial launch of the first truly sustainable and functional plant-based protein ingredient.

Overview

We are looking for a Process Engineer that wants to join our growing team located in San Marcos, California and is willing to take on a key position within the company. The Process Engineer has the primary role of building, developing and managing the scale up of the protein extraction setup within the company, including designing and executing R&D initiatives. The Process Engineer will need to have a deep understanding of chemical/process engineering and process dependent behavior. The Process Engineer will be responsible for the safe and efficient development, modification and manufacture of food products, samples, and production processes that involve Plantible's core operations.

This successful, self-motivated, creative, team-oriented, resourceful, adaptable, and results-oriented individual will have a keen understanding and extensive hands-on experience with the ability to think beyond standard methods, independently lead and reach conclusions, and clearly deliver results within a startup organization. You will have the opportunity to make an immediate impact in our core scientific understanding, initiate creative product development, and develop into leadership roles using the skills described herein. Candidate must have the ability to use error as a skill to learn and develop a product until success.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Key role in protein process development and scale-up
- Lead or participate in multidisciplinary teams addressing critical issues in protein recovery and purification. Help set and execute the strategic and tactical direction in both upstream and downstream process development.
- Lead, design and execute optimization experiments and related projects in conjunction with other staff to deliver an efficient, cost effective technology package for scale up through to product commercialization.
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- Perform mass balances, record and interpret in-process data
- Responsible for maintaining, cleaning and operating equipment
- Research alternative technologies and equipment across relevant industries and applications.

Education & Experience

- BS in Food Science, Chemical Engineering or related fields with at least 2 years of experience in biopharmaceutical, nutraceutical, or food process development
- Experience working in a laboratory and pilot plant or industrial setting.
- Fundamental knowledge of protein purification unit operations, membrane filtration, centrifugal separation, filtration and drying.

Skills and Qualifications

- Must have deep technical acumen and expertise in implementation and optimization of unit operations in protein separations, isolation and purification including but not limited to membrane filtration, mechanical separations, chromatography, evaporation, drying etc. Experience in scale up of these processes from bench to pilot to commercial is a plus.
- Hands-on process engineer, interested in equipment and knowledge of mechanical, electrical fundamentals
- Skillful in problem solving and trouble-shooting processes and equipment
- Excellent scientific methodology, data driven decision making, controlled experiments, logical thinking.
- Demonstrated experience in managing external relationships with strategic process engineering partners and commercial scale contract manufacturers
- Ability to stand or sit for prolonged periods, climb, kneel, bend, and at times lift objects as heavy as 50 lbs.

Why Plantible Foods:

Becoming part of Plantible means contributing to sustainable future for all. We are venture funded startup that is trying to make sure that we not only spread happiness amongst our employees, but also to current and future generations. We believe diversity creates uniqueness. Our diverse international team of highly talented people has different interests and hobbies and we support them all. Additional Plantible benefits:

- a BBQ-worthy garden
- Working in a rapidly growing, flexible and entrepreneurial environment
- Bi-weekly Friday socials
- And of course, lots of beautiful land to practice any outdoor activity you can imagine!

We also offer (financial) support with your relocation, if necessary, ensuring a smooth transition into living in sunny and beautiful Southern California.

Plantible Foods is an equal employment opportunity employer. Candidates are considered for employment without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, ancestry, veteran status, marital status, gender identify, sexual orientation, national origin, liability for military service, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law. If you are interested in learning the status of your application, please note you will be contacted directly by the appropriate human resources contact person if you are selected for further consideration. Plantible Foods reserves the right to defer or close a vacancy at any time.