

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SCIENCE:

VOICES FROM single  tree

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE SINGLETREE PROJECT?



“I am involved in the central Living Lab Value Chain focusing on optimization of multifunctional forestry. As I am leading the work package related to all living labs, I am also in exchange with the other countries. We learn a lot from each other”.

Janine Schweier

Swiss Federal Research Institute (WSL)





“In the SingleTree project, I represent the research team from the University of Valladolid, Spain. As a PhD candidate, my thesis aligns with the project's objectives, which are collecting proximal sensing LiDAR data, and focusing on outer wood quality and biodiversity at the single-tree level”.

Chamodi Tharuni Mahanama Dissanayake
Universidad de Valladolid (UVA)

“I coordinate the Southern Living Lab, where we test new forest measurement technologies for full traceability from tree to industry. We aim to establish a 100-ha site in Palencia with *Pinus sylvestris* or *Pinus nigra* for advanced data collection.”

Ángela Blázquez
Cesefor



“As part of the State Forest Enterprise of the Canton of Bern, we are contributing practical expertise, real life problems, harvesting examples and data to SingleTree.”

Lioba Rath
Staatsforstbetrieb Kanton Bern





“ I am the leader of work package on adaptive single tree level management and tools for enhancing forest resilience and multifunctionality in precision forestry”.

Heli Peltola
University of Eastern Finland (UEF)

“ My research focuses on developing autonomous drone technologies for measuring individual tree attributes, extending beyond species and structure to include tree health, biodiversity, and other aspects. In the SingleTree project, I lead work package on Single-tree monitoring”.

Eija Honkavaara

Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI)



WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO PURSUE SCIENCE?





“My focus is on forest management and operations—how we can sustainably harvest timber, maintain healthy ecosystems, and ensure that our forests remain productive for future generations.

I enjoy the applied side of the field, working with data, technology, and on-the-ground practices to improve efficiency while minimizing environmental impact”.

Janine Schweier

Swiss Federal Research Institute (WSL)

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“ Choosing a scientific career was clear to me from my school years. I have the soul of a researcher, driven to explore and understand things thoroughly, with a passion for developing new technologies and contributing to making the world a better place to live”.

Eija Honkavaara
Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI)



“My motivation for pursuing a career in science is to contribute to the advancement and application of new technological solutions that help transform the forestry sector into a cutting-edge and essential industry for the global bioeconomy”.

Ángela Blázquez
Cesefor





“My passion for science began at age 15, driven by curiosity about everyday phenomena. This led me to specialize in Biological Science in high school, study Environmental Science in Bachelors, and later pursue the Erasmus Mundus MEDfOR master’s, which was the key turning point in my career.”

Chamodi Tharuni Mahanama Dissanayake
Universidad de Valladolid (UVA)

“ Making scientifically and societally meaningful and impactful science is my passion. I would like to contribute especially to development of novel means, solutions and tools for adaptive multi-functional forest management considering various risks to forests and forestry and uncertainties related to climate change”.

Heli Peltola
University of Eastern Finland (UEF)



“In forest management we are confronted with complex decisions in the field every day. Especially in a changing future we need be active in science to give us the necessary basis to make those decisions confidently.”

Lioba Rath
Staatsforstbetrieb Kanton Bern



WHICH WOMAN
IN SCIENCE HAS
INFLUENCED/INSPIRED
YOU THE MOST?

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“ Professor of Plant
Ecology (emerita) Riitta
Julkunen-Tiitto,
University of Eastern
Finland”.

Heli Peltola
University of Eastern Finland (UEF)





“My science role models are Janine Schweier and Verena Griess. My role model in forestry is also Jasmin Hehli”.

Lioba Rath
Staatsforstbetrieb Kanton Bern

“ I am deeply inspired by persistent, fair, and visionary colleagues, especially those who consistently encourage and motivate others while thoughtfully planning the next steps. One such scientist is Prof. Juha Hyyppä”.

Eija Honkavaara
Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI)





“Margarida Tomé,
professor at the Instituto
Superior de Agronomia in
Lisbon.”

Ángela Blázquez
Cesefor

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HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT WOMEN IN SCIENCE?



“We should provide stronger support, especially post-PhD, and ensure teams include more than one woman”.

Janine Schweier
Swiss Federal Research Institute (WSL)





“ By treating all researchers equally and fairly, encouraging to scientific career, and offering support when needed. Additionally, with more female role models today, their presence hopefully will help inspire and support others”.

Eija Honkavaara
Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI)

“Supporting women in science starts with recognizing their potential and capability. Creating inclusive workplaces and encouraging young girls in STEM are crucial to opening new paths. A strong career empowers women with personal growth, financial stability and intellectual independence”.

Chamodi Tharuni Mahanama Dissanayake
Universidad de Valladolid (UVA)





“What helped me to be confident in a field that is dominated by men is the personal supportive contact to every other woman I met. Get together, become more visible and make support in each personal interaction a normality”.

Lioba Rath
Staatsforstbetrieb Kanton Bern

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“Encourage STEM
(Science, Technology,
Engineering, and
Mathematics) careers
for young girls from an
early age”.

Ángela Blázquez
Cesefor





“Successful female researchers in science could act as a role models and they can also show that you do not need to choose between work life and family, you can do both”.

Heli Peltola
University of Eastern Finland (UEF)

WHAT MESSAGE
WOULD YOU GIVE TO
FUTURE GIRLS/WOMEN
IN SCIENCE?





“Research is demanding but rewarding. If you love it, go for it! Seek advice and learn from experienced women in your field”.

Ángela Blázquez
Cesefor

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“Keep on being curious
and passionate for what
you’re doing. Know, that
your opinion and voice
matter and have a weight!
And mostly, find joy in your
everyday workings”.

Lioba Rath
Staatsforstbetrieb Kanton Bern



“ We need science based informed decision making under changing operative environment and making scientifically and societally meaningful and impactful science gives you more than takes”.

Heli Peltola

University of Eastern Finland (UEF)





“Forests need skilled, innovative minds for a sustainable future. Though women remain underrepresented, diverse perspectives are key to managing our diverse forests”.

Janine Schweier
Swiss Federal Research Institute (WSL)

“To future girls and women in science: believe in your abilities and never hesitate to take up space in the field. Science thrives on diverse perspectives, and your contributions matters a lot!”

Chamodi Tharuni Mahanama Dissanayake
Universidad de Valladolid



“ To all girls and women interested in science: pursue a career in research! It offers creativity, innovation, and global collaboration, with possibility to contribute to a sustainable future. Your unique perspective is needed in shaping science!”

Eija Honkavaara

Finnish Geospatial Research Institute (FGI)

