

Postdoc Position: Specialty Crop On-Farm Automation

A postdoc research associate position is available in [Dr. Yuzhen Lu](#)'s group (**AgFood Sensing & Intelligence**) in the Department of Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University ([Top 100 Globally](#), [Public Ivy](#), the first Land-Grant University and [AAU](#) member in the U.S., [Top 15 in Agriculture & Forestry](#) globally). The selected candidate will work primarily on **in-orchard/postharvest automation** for specialty crops. This position will be an initial 12-month opportunity with the possibility of an extension depending on performance and funding. It may start in the summer of 2026 or on a later agreed-upon starting date.

The successful candidate is expected to assist with leading efforts in developing *machine vision and artificial intelligence (AI)-based mechanization/automation technologies to address labor challenges with on-farm specialty crop production tasks* (e.g., mechanized harvesting, automated sorting, vision-based crop management), and to generate high-quality peer-reviewed publications. The postdoc will meet regularly with Dr. Lu to discuss best practices in design, prototyping, algorithm development and testing, experimentation, manuscript preparation, mentoring, and lab management. The selected candidate may also engage in activities such as grant proposal development and class teaching assistance as needed for their professional development. Successful candidates need to be *creative, self-motivated/disciplined, adaptive, and dedicated*, collaborate in multidisciplinary environments, and communicate research outcomes actively through journal publications and conference presentations.

Minimum Requirements

- The successful candidate must have a PhD degree in Biosystems/Agricultural Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Automation, or closely related fields.
- Successful candidates are expected to have demonstrated experience evidenced in publication records in machine/computer vision, mechatronics, and or AI/robotics.
- Strong computer programming skills are necessary in C++, Python, and or Matlab.
- The candidate is expected to have excellent scientific writing and communication skills.

Desired Qualifications

- Skills in machine vision, engineering design, hardware prototyping, and system integration are highly desirable.
- Experience in the *development of real-time mechanical vision systems with AI for special crop automation* is an advantage.

Application

Correspondences about the position may be sent to Dr. Yuzhen Lu at luyuzhen@msu.edu. Review of applications will commence immediately and proceed until the position is filled. Video pre-interview meetings may be scheduled for potential candidates if necessary.

