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Functional analysis of agrobacterium virulence genes

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Curriculum Vitae

Xiaolei Niu was born on 19th October 1979 in Hanzhong, Shaanxi province, China. After graduation from high school at Hanzhong No.1 Senior middle school in 1999, he started studies as a Combined Bachelor-Master's Degree Programme student in the College of Life Science at Northwest A&F University, Yangling, China, and obtained his bachelor degree in Biotechnology in 2002. In the same year, he moved to the college of Natural Resources and Environment at the same university for a master study in Plant Nutrition under supervision of Professor Quanhong Xue with a project on the usage of *Streptomyces* to protect pepper from *Phytophthora capsici* disease. He obtained his master degree in 2005. From 2005 to 2007, he studied at the college of Life Science in Microbiology at the same university under supervision of Professor Xing Zhang with a project on development of agricultural antibiotics from *Streptomyces*. Following his supervisor's suggestion, he decided to go abroad for a Ph.D study. In 2007, he was awarded the scholarship from the China Scholarship Council and started his PhD project at the Molecular and Development Genetics department, Institute of Biology, Leiden University in the Netherlands, under supervision of Dr. Paul van Heusden and Prof. Dr. Paul J.J. Hooykaas. The research project was functional analysis of *Agrobacterium* virulence genes.

