

JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Job title: Trials Officer	Centre: Newton Abbot	Grade: B	Location: NA
Reports to (Job title): Trials Manager, Centre Manager		Line Manages (Job titles): ,	

2. Main purpose of role:
To generate technical information through the delivery of field trials in the NIAB-TAG South West region.

3. Financial authority/responsibility (e.g. delegated budget, authorisation level, approx value of contracts etc):
Able to raise purchase orders

4. Key relationships (external and internal):
Team members, Regional Manager, Regional Agronomist, Host farmers, contractors, suppliers.

5. Tasks/responsibilities (in order of priority)	Approx % of time
To assist in the establishment and management of field trials of various crops Includes drilling, pesticide and fertiliser application plus harvesting of a range of crops. Carry out tasks to meet industry standards and contract protocols (COSHH,ISO, GEP etc)	60
To maintain a range of equipment and facilities Ensuring all machinery, equipment and buildings are serviced, maintained and ready for use when needed. Keeping maintenance records up to date, arranging contractors (engineers) to carry out work. Requires mechanical and practical ability plus good planning.	25
To assess plots for a range of agronomic characteristics Methodical assessment using electronic data loggers or paper. May requires ability to recognise crop diseases and interpret assessment keys after suitable training	10
To validate, analyse and submit various plot data Checking for errors, processing by prescribed deadlines	5
To ensure work is carried out in a safe environment Ensuing compliance with risk assessment and maintaining servicing logs	Always

6. Working conditions :
Standard hours: 37hrs/pw 8.30am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday Working much of the time outdoors in all weather conditions. Some intensive periods of repetitive work. Work involves handling and using harmful chemicals and reagents. Expected to work additional hours and at weekends as workload and season dictates. Some periods of lone working both indoors and out. Some out of region work involving overnight stays. Suitable clothing, PPE and a mobile phone provided. Overtime will be paid.

7. PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education/Qualifications:

Essential:	Desirable:
A good general standard of secondary education including qualifications in English, Mathematics and Science.	Higher education qualification in agriculture, applied science, or land based industry.

Experience:

Essential:	Desirable:
Some work based knowledge of agriculture and agricultural machinery.	One or more year's employment in a land based industry. Sound understanding of farming generally and arable crop or forage crop production in particular. Experience in use and maintenance of agricultural machinery.

Specialist Training:

Essential:	Desirable:
Tractor driving	PA 1 & 2, PA 6 Forklift certificate Quad bike certificate

Personal Qualities (skills, behaviours and competencies)

Essential:	Desirable:
Ability to work both unsupervised and within a team. Attention to detail. Willing to work extended and or unsociable hours when required. Problem solving and ability to use initiative. Some IT literacy. Time management skills.	Desire to learn more about crop production and management. Long term commitment to agricultural career. Willingness to learn new skills.

Date of description: 09/05/17**Compiled by:** M Wavish