

JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Job title: Field Trials Manager **Centre:** Kent trials centre

Grade: C **Location:** East Malling

Reports to: East Malling Farm and Horticultural Manager

Line Manages : Permanent trials staff and functional management of temporary trials staff

2. Main purpose of role:

The role will focus on delivery of NIABTAG and NIABEMR field trials and demonstration plots across a wide range of arable and horticultural crop species including combinable crops, vegetables, maize, soft and top fruit and novel crops. The work involves growing specialist trials for range of assessments including disease testing and plant breeding, in addition to variety testing and agrochemical efficacy testing.

Main duties will be management of NIABTAG and NIABEMR field trial team and the trials commissioned through our Kent centre this will include staff management, trial planning, drilling, recording, spraying and harvest. The post holder will be responsible for delivery of the trials to strict protocols so attention to detail is essential. The post holder will also be responsible for ensuring that the Centre is ready for open days, including organising teams to put up plot boards and liaising with the Communications Team.

The majority of the work will be carried out as part of a team based at East Malling, but will also involve some off-site work assisting with trials operations at other NIABTAG centres.

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

Manage and set budgets for this work area. Able to raise purchase orders for trials related consumables

4. Key relationships (external and internal):

For the effective delivery of the field work programme, key relationships will be developed with the Regional Agronomist, colleagues commissioning trials both from NIAB's Cambridge HQ and East Malling along with other Trials Delivery and Trial Services teams. The post holder will also liaise closely with the Trials Coordinators, and external customers responsible for requesting and commissioning field work.

Tasks/responsibilities (in order of priority)	Approx % of time
To manage delivery of the trials to protocol from East Malling, including tasks such as seed preparation, drilling, spraying, assessing and harvesting.	80
To manage other crop trials, including seed prep, drilling, management, assessments and harvesting	15
Assisting with other trials work required as part of the NIAB trials programme	5

6. Working conditions:

Some office-based but largely outside in all kinds of weather conditions, some work involving a high degree of physical activity. Travel within the UK and nights away may be required. Work outside normal hours will be necessary at peak times.

7. PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education/Qualifications:

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Essential:	Desirable:
Good standard of education with relevant experience in Agriculture, Horticulture or Field Trials Driving licence Microsoft Office	Further education to at least HND level in a science, agricultural, horticultural or related subject

Experience:

Essential:	Desirable:
Basic agricultural and horticultural skills and experience Knowledge of the agricultural and horticultural industry Trials management experience Staff management experience	Drilling, spraying, fertiliser and Combining experience Use of data loggers

Specialist Training:

Essential:	Desirable:
Spray application certificates PA1, PA6 and NRoSO registered	Forklift certificate PA3, PA4 (S) (G) and PA9. B+E trailer licence

Personal Qualities (skills, behaviours and competencies)

Essential:	Desirable:
Team player A flexible approach to different types of work retaining attention to detail is required at all times. Ability to work under pressure but retain accuracy Prepared to work unsociable hours at certain times of the year to ensure the job gets done Willingness to work on own and as part of teams Take a pride in work done. Knowing when to seek guidance A full driving licence is essential, and willingness to drive cars, light passenger, commercial and agricultural vehicles.	

Date of description: v1 22nd March 2017**Compiled by:** Mark Leaman