



## Job Description

|                   |                                   |                     |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Job title</b>  | <b>Agronomy Trials Technician</b> | <b>Location</b>     | NIAB, Southern Region |
| <b>Team</b>       | Trials Delivery Team              | <b>Job group</b>    | Technical             |
| <b>Centre</b>     | Newton Abbot, Devon               | <b>Post ref.</b>    | SV/A1125-01           |
| <b>Reports to</b> | Centre Manager                    | <b>Line manages</b> | N/A                   |

### 1. Team overview

The NIAB Southern Regional trials team operate a number of field sites across the Southern counties with trials centres located in Hampshire, Dorset and Devon. The primary role of the team being to conduct trials and evaluations on a range of agricultural and horticultural crops. The dedication of the team combining with experience and local knowledge enable them to offer high quality trial services across a range of environments, soil types and as part of commercial crop rotations. Good team and inter-departmental working are key to our successful operations.

### 2. Role purpose

To work as part of a team to focus on all aspects of agronomy in the delivery of field trials and demonstration plots across a wide range of crop species including combinable crops, herbage and forage crops. Work includes growing specialist trials for disease testing and plant breeding variety testing and agrochemical efficacy testing.

### 3. Financial authority/responsibility

No direct budget responsibilities but required to raise purchase orders for trials related consumables.

### 4. Key relationships

**Internal:** Intradepartmental working relationships within the Regional Trials Teams, taking an active part in team meetings to organise work and provide feedback. Also interdepartmental relationships with other NIAB teams for whom we deliver work, such as Farming Systems and Research. Working closely with the line manager, there is a career skills and training matrix which will be used to help develop the role.

**External:** Potentially liaising with host grower and customers.

### 5. Key tasks/responsibilities

*The balance of the tasks and level of autonomy are likely to change as the post-holder's knowledge and skills develop.*

Work alongside the other members of the Regional Trials Delivery Team to assist with the delivery, establishment and maintenance of a wide range of crop trials and demonstration plots including tasks such as seed preparation, drilling, spraying, assessing and harvesting. Accuracy and attention to detail are vital in all of these tasks.

Keep appropriate trial records to meet key protocol requirements.

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Other trials work, as part of the NIAB trials programme, when required.

## 6. Working conditions

Primarily based at Newton Abbot (Devon), with occasional work carried out to support our other centres around the UK. Travel and any accommodation expenses will be covered by NIAB.

Working outside in all weather conditions with some work involving a high degree of physical activity.

Additional hours will be necessary at peak times.

## Person Specification

| Criteria   | Essential | Desirable |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Qualifications</b>  |           |           |
| 'A' levels or equivalent qualifications/experience   | x         |           |
| Recognised qualification in science of agricultural subject  |           | x         |
| <b>Knowledge and skills</b>  |           |           |
| Good organisational skills with the ability to cope with high seasonal workload and conflicting requirements                             | x         |           |
| Competency in Microsoft Office 365 applications – Outlook, Word, Excel, SharePoint, Powerpoint   | x         |           |
| Use of data loggers  |           | x         |
| Management of field trials   |           | x         |
| Combining and drilling   |           | x         |
| Pesticide application training (PA1 and PA6)   |           | x         |
| Seed Treatment training (PA11)   |           | x         |
| Trailer Licence  |           | x         |
| Forklift certificate   |           | x         |
| <b>Experience</b>  |           |           |
| Basic skills and experience in agriculture   |           | x         |
| Knowledge of the Agricultural industry   |           | x         |
| <b>Attributes</b>  |           |           |
| Accuracy and attention to detail.  | x         |           |
| Ability to work to specific protocols  | x         |           |
| Flexibility – able to work alone as well as working effectively as part of a small team and to work unsocial hours                       | x         |           |
| <b>Other</b>   |           |           |
| Driving licence or access to independent means of travelling, enabling travel to other centres around the UK. Transport can be provided. | x         |           |

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