

## JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

**1. Job title:** Agronomy Trials Technician  
**Job Group:** Technical

**Centre:** Operations  
**Location:** Cambridge HQ

**Reports to:** Cambridge Trials Manager

**Line Manages :** No full-time direct line management responsibility but will have occasional functional management of students and other casual workers

### 2. Main purpose of role:

The role will focus on delivery of NIAB field trials and demonstration plots across a wide range of crop species including combinable crops, vegetables, sugar beet, potatoes, maize and novel crops. Some of the work carried out by the Cambridge HQ team involves growing specialist trials for disease testing and plant breeding, in addition to variety testing and agrochemical efficacy testing. Main duties will include seed preparation, drilling, monitoring, spraying, harvest, processing and storage of material for future use. The post holder will also be involved in assessing trials during the season and recording information on electronic dataloggers so attention to detail is essential. The majority of the work will be carried out as part of a team based at Cambridge, 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):

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 colleagues within Cambridge HQ Trials Delivery and Trial Services teams. The post holder will also liaise closely with the Trials Coordinators responsible for requesting and commissioning field work.

Tasks/responsibilities (in order of priority)	Approx % of time
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	80
To keep appropriate trial records to meet protocol requirements	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:**

Essential:	Desirable:
Driving licence A/level or equivalent Microsoft Office	Qualifications in science or agricultural subject

**Experience:**

Essential:	Desirable:
Basic agricultural skills and experience  Knowledge of the Agricultural industry	Combining, drilling, Use of data loggers Spraying experience Trials management

**Specialist Training:**

Essential:	Desirable:
	Forklift, PA11 (seed treatment), Trailer licence PA1, PA6

**Personal Qualities (skills, behaviours and competencies)**

Essential:	Desirable:
Team player. Flexibility 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	

**Date of description:** 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020**Compiled by:** Hannah Parish