

JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

1. Job title: Senior Specialist / Senior Research Associate (potato agronomy)

Business Unit: NIAB Agronomy (NIAB CUF team)

Job Grouping: Senior Specialist / Specialist T1

Location: Cambridge, UK

Reports to: Head of Farming Systems and Agronomy Research

Line Manages: TBC

2. Main purpose of role:

This role is part of a research group that includes Specialists / Research Associates and Field & Laboratory Technicians, undertaking field, laboratory, and office-based activities. Income is generated from research grants (including UKRI, levy and charity), commercial R&D, consultancy, and other technical services.

The role supports and maintains NIAB CUF's reputation for excellence in potato research, knowledge exchange and practical advice. As a member of the team carrying out research, providing expertise and delivering services, the jobholder will contribute to all aspects, providing scope for originality, scientific judgement, and interpretation. The jobholder will take a leading role in developing areas of potato research and strategy, prepare/contribute to proposals, carry out work associated with a range of projects and services within the group, analyse data, write reports, and present findings to industry or the science community at meetings, conferences and field events.

It is crucial that the jobholder develops working relationships with collaborating research organisations and industry stakeholders. The group works closely with the Cambridge University Potato Growers Research Association, who support research, knowledge exchange and events undertaken by the group.

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

The jobholder is expected to secure/manage research/KE grants, consultancy work/trials or other funded projects with a combined value of £250K+ p.a. They will oversee all aspects of budgets associated with their delegated projects.

4. Key relationships (external and internal):

Other members of the NIAB CUF / potato team, staff in research teams across the NIAB group, and NIAB field crop and trials staff.

Customers/stakeholders (particularly, but not exclusively, AHDB, UKRI, and commercial companies), CUPGRA and its members, and collaborating research organisations (Crop Science Centre, research institutes and universities).

Tasks/responsibilities (in order of priority)	Approx % of time
Conduct and manage individual and collaborative research projects and deliver service or consultancy work/trials. Plan use of research resources in collaboration with others. Analyse data and write-up research work for presentations, reports and publications.	60
Present research findings at meetings and events. Continually update knowledge and understanding in specialist research field.	15
Lead on the strategy for, and development of, areas of potato work. Develop objectives and proposals for projects (own or joint). Prepare applications to external bodies for funding. Generate income from consultancy work or commercial trials.	10-15
Liaise with colleagues; originate/build internal and external contacts with others to exchange information, form partnerships for collaboration or build relationships for future activities.	5
Undertake administrative and financial activities related to projects and research delivery	5

Mentor and support less experienced colleagues in developing their research and/or expertise.	5
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6. Working conditions :

Working in the field or laboratory (up to 40% of time) using standard and specialist technical equipment, and in an office using a computer (c. 60% of time). Travel to external sites and meetings within the UK and occasionally overseas, with some early starts, late finishes, or overnight stays to complete field work or attend meetings.

The jobholder may be expected to conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for health and safety of others.

7. PERSON SPECIFICATION**Education/Qualifications:**

Essential:	Desirable:
PhD in plant science or agronomy, involving work on field grown crops/plants. or Degree in agriculture, plant science or applied biological subject, plus relevant crop/agronomy research experience in academia or industry.	

Experience:

Essential:	Desirable:
Minimum 2 years' post-doctoral level (or equivalent industry research experience in crops/agronomy. Practical work related to agricultural crops. Sufficient breadth/depth of specialist knowledge to work within established research programmes. Track record in obtaining project/grant funding. Authoring industry reports or peer review papers.	Knowledge of potato crop production in the UK. Track record of potato crop research and/or field experimentation. Interaction with agricultural industry and charities.

Specialist Training:

Essential:	Desirable:
Knowledge of research methods and techniques, relevant to field crops, Knowledge of statistical analysis of experimental data. Able to update knowledge and engage in continuing professional development.	Knowledge of complementary specialist laboratory techniques BASIS Crop Protection and/or FACTS

Personal Qualities (skills, behaviours and competencies)

Essential:	Desirable:
Communication and interpersonal skills Ability to organise time, be flexible in working pattern, manage own workload and work alone or as part of a team.	Scientific/technical leadership Experience of managing staff / leading a team Commercial acumen

<p>Sufficient administrative skills to manage project/s including financial management.</p> <p>Good presentation skills. Desire to achieve impact.</p> <p>Accuracy/consistency of approach, attention to detail, able to think logically and address complex issues.</p> <p>Full driving licence.</p>	
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Date of description:	10/02/21	Compiled by: E Stockdale / S Knight
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