

## JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

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

**Reports to** (Job title): Regional Manager      **Line Manages** (Job titles): Temp Assistant      **Location:** HE

### 2. Main purpose of role:

- To assist with the operation of the trials programme primarily at the Telford Centre, near Hodnet, Shropshire but also with trials at Callow (Hereford), Bridgend and Cirencester under the support of the Centre and Regional Managers.

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

- Responsible for maintaining records of expenditure (consumables, agrochemicals etc)

### 4. Key relationships (external and internal)

- Internal: TE Centre Manager, West Regional Manager and Regional Agronomist, Other Regional staff, Trial Co-ordinators, Crop Specialists
- External: Trial Host Growers, Trial customers, NIAB TAG members (farmers, agronomists, corporate, especially in West Region); Industry specialists, Sub-contractors

### 5. Tasks/responsibilities (in order of priority)

Approx % of time

#### Planning and organisation

- Interpretation of technical requirements in trial protocols.
- Assist with field planning of trials
- Procurement of seed, agchem, fertiliser and other consumables.
- Record keeping of operations, processes, maintenance of equipment and buildings to meet industry standards and protocols (COSHH, ISO, GEP etc).
- Help to prepare and implement work schedules

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#### Trial procedure

- Seed preparation for plot drilling
- Drilling, pesticide and fertiliser application plus harvesting a range of field crop trials.
- Field Demos: prepare and organise sites and facilities
- Assessment of plots for a range of agronomic characteristics using electronic data loggers or paper.
- Data handling: collation, analysis and delivering data using various IT software

70

#### Centre operation

- Maintenance of a range of equipment, machinery and buildings

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### 6. Working conditions:

The majority of the work is outside during the recording period. An element of time is spent in the office carrying out planning and administrative duties. Some intensive periods of repetitive work. Work involves handling and using agrochemicals and reagents. Expected to work additional hours and at weekends as workload and season dictates. Some periods of lone working both indoors and out. Due to the seasonal nature of the work, it may not be possible to take annual leave at certain times. The post-holder will also need to work outside in conditions where pollen from various plant species could be at high levels.

## 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:
Work based knowledge of agriculture particularly general tractor driving and the use of farm machinery.	<p>One or more year's employment in a land-based industry.</p> <p>Sound understanding of farming generally and crop production in particular.</p> <p>Maintenance of agricultural machinery.</p> <p>Experience of running field trials. Knowledge of arable production systems and experimental procedures.</p> <p>Managing different workload packages at the same time.</p> <p>Laboratory work.</p>

### Specialist Training:

Essential:	Desirable:
<p>PA1 Foundation Module: Safe Use Of Pesticides certificate.</p> <p>PA6 Hand Held Applicators certificate.</p> <p>Driving self-propelled harvesters, mowers etc. –training for other will be given where needed</p>	<p>PA2 Boom Sprayer (Mounted/Trailed) certificate.</p> <p>Forklift/Telehandler certificate.</p> <p>Quadbike certificate.</p> <p>Ability to operate and carry out routine maintenance of machinery and equipment.</p> <p>Familiarity with ARM software</p> <p>B+E driving licence.</p> <p>C+E driving licence.</p>

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

Essential:	Desirable:

Full driving licence.  
Computer literate (Windows, Office, Word, Excel).  
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.  
Time management skills.

Ability to talk to and understand farmers, agronomists and technical specialists, with a range of requirements and at different technical levels.  
Knowledge of statistics and trials design, and familiarity with statistical software.  
Self-motivating and with ability to sort out day-to-day issues.  
Long term commitment to agricultural career.  
Willingness to learn new skills.

**Date of description:** July 2020

**Compiled by:** Mike Perry

**Review date:**

**Reviewed by:**