



Job Description

Job title	Agronomy Trials Technician	Location	NIAB, Benniworth or Headley Hall
Team	Benniworth or Headley Hall	Job group	Technical
Centre	Northern Region	Post ref.	SV/A1273
Reports to	Centre Manager	Line manages	N/A

1. Team overview

The primary role of the Northern Regional trials team is to conduct trials and evaluations on a range of agricultural and horticultural crops. The dedication of the team combining with experience and local knowledge to manage a range of crops to enable the team to offer 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.

In the northern regional team carries out work on over 20,000 plots, covering an area from Lincolnshire to the Scottish Borders.

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, vegetables, sugar beet, potatoes, maize and novel 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 Northern Region and the other regional teams, taking an active part in 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 and the NIAB Membership. 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 growers and customers and local suppliers/businesses.

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 Northern 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.

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Keep appropriate trial records to meet key protocol requirements.

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

6. Working conditions

Primarily based at the outdoor trial areas, which are on the Host farms located within the Northern region, with occasional work carried out at our 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 with manual handling (up to 25kg).

Additional hours will be necessary at peak times.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
'A' levels or equivalent qualifications/experience	x	
Recognised qualification in science of agricultural subject		x
Knowledge and skills		
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
Familiarity with using agricultural machinery or trials equipment		x
Combining and drilling		x
Pesticide application training (PA1, PA2, PA4 and PA6)		x
Seed Treatment training (PA11)		x
Experience		
Previous experience in agronomy, crop management or field trials is advantageous		x
Knowledge of the Agricultural industry	x	
Previous experience in farm machinery	x	
Previous experience of towing heavy trailers	x	
Attributes		
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	
Other		
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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