



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title	Head of statistics – Variety Evaluation	Location - base	Park Farm, Histon, Cambridge
Team	Statistics – variety evaluation	Job group	Senior Specialist
Department	Agricultural Crop Characterisation	Post ref.	SV/A1379
Reports to	Head of Agricultural Crop Characterisation	Line manages	Statistician; Statistical Officer

1. Role purpose

The role leads the small statistics (variety evaluation) team in carrying out their critical roles underpinning many of NIAB’s statutory contracts including:

- analysis of the DUS data for cross pollinated crops;
- analysis of VCU crop trials and production of reports for National Variety List.
- data processing and statistical analysis required for Descriptive and Recommended Lists, for maize, herbage, pulses and sugar beet including production of reports;
- design of VCU crop trials, data processing and statistical analysis of winter oilseed rape, herbage, maize, sugar beet and minor crops for trials run by BSPB on behalf of APHA/Defra;
- design, data processing, statistical analysis and production of disease scores for APHA/Defra
- statistical analysis and interpretation for NIAB members, crop contracts and other research project and contract trials as required.

The Head of Statistics (Variety Evaluation) has overall accountability for these functions and also coordinates NIAB specialists’ input to APHA and Defra, and statistical advice for DUS under the Plant, Varieties and Seeds contract. The Head of Statistics (Variety Evaluation) represents England & Wales on the Inter-Departmental Statistics Group (IDSG) on behalf of APHA and Defra. The post-holder also represents the UK, on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Authorities, at the UPOV technical working party for testing methods and techniques (TWM) on a 3-year cycle (1 year in 3) and undertakes associated research.

2. Financial authority/responsibility

To cost all work undertaken by team, managing staff resources and, subsequently, ensuring work is completed to or under budget.

Responsible for delivery of contract work worth c. £ 450,000 pa

3. Key relationships

- Internal** Other staff within the ACC team, Crop Specialists, Trials Co-ordination and Trials Delivery team, Pathology and other research departments, IT.
- External:** APHA, BSPB and its members, Defra, the Devolved Authorities, BioSS, AFBI, IDSG members, UPOV, HRLCC.BBRO, PGRO.

4. Key tasks/responsibilities

	Approx. % of time
Co-ordination of work and line management of staff within the statistics (variety evaluation) team	10%
Provide statistical input and advice to VL and RL groups across crops. To support APHA/NLSC as required, including co-ordinating responses to ad-hoc queries in a timely fashion.	35%
Represent England and Wales on IDSG on behalf of APHA; represent UK at UPOV TWM; as required, co-ordinate NIAB specialists' input to APHA, and statistical advice for DUS, under the PVS contract.	25%
Ensure overall all BSPB / BBRO / PGRO / DUS/ VL / RL (and similar) and performance trials data analyses and reporting is completed accurately and to deadlines.	10%
Identify and deliver applied research relating to the PBR, Variety List (DUS and VCU), and Recommended List variety trials systems, and support implementation. Participate in the development of research and commercial bids as appropriate.	10%
Keeping up to date with statistical techniques relevant to job and taking the lead in introduction of new systems or changes in the methods of analysis.	5%
Develop the role of statistics at Niab by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Recognising and co-ordinating (as required) approaches to data management and statistics in Niab working across departments, as appropriate o Representing Niab in the cross-sector development of approaches to agricultural data analysis and data presentation. 	5%

Note that the postholder may also be asked to undertake other appropriate duties as required.

5. Working conditions

Works in the office (c. 85 -95 % of time); occasional UK and overseas travel will be required. Working flexibility from home will be possible, but some time in the office at Niab (Park Farm) will be required weekly.

Line management responsibility for at least 2 members of staff within the Statistics (variety evaluation) team.

This will include:

- Regular Visual Display Unit usage.
- Occasional exposure to plant material, pathogens and pollen, limited exposure to bees and other insects.

Due to peaks in workload, it may not be possible to take holiday at certain times unless pre-arranged with sufficient notice.

Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Degree in statistics or similar analytical background.	x	
Post-graduate qualification in applied statistics or with similar analytical background.		x
Knowledge and skills		
Competent and confident use of Microsoft Office including SharePoint	x	
Competent in data management and analysis within statistical software: GenStat and R	x	
Excellent organisational skills, able to prioritise and organise time and work tasks for self and a team	x	
Proven ability to cope with high workloads and constantly changing priorities.	x	
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, able to translate complex statistical concepts into terms understandable by a non-expert	x	
Knowledge of agricultural crops and plant testing systems within the UK		x
Experience		
Experience working in practical data analysis for academia or industry	x	
Experience of analysis of data from field experimentation or environmental monitoring		x
Customer-facing role (employment or voluntary position) showing ability to handle confidential information appropriately.	x	
Using data to support impartial and independent decision-making	x	
Attributes		
Accuracy and attention to detail.	x	
Flexibility – able to work alone and lead a small team	x	
Proactive and self-motivated; confident to set, direct and monitor progress of others	x	
Other		
Driving licence or access to independent means of travelling, to facilitate occasional travel to NIAB or customer sites within Great Britain. A pool of vehicles is maintained for use on NIAB business.		x