

Position Description

Position title	Agronomic Research Technician
Reports to	Project Agronomist
Business unit	Research and Business Development
Location	Meringa
Direct reports	Casuals as required

Position details

SRA purpose	<p>Sugar Research Australia invests in and manages a portfolio of research, development and adoption projects that drive productivity, profitability and sustainability for the Australian sugarcane industry.</p> <p>We have highly dedicated and passionate people working on industry-critical projects to deliver tangible value outcomes and impact for our industry stakeholders.</p>
Business unit purpose	<p>The Purpose of the R&D business unit is to: 1. Lead the planning, delivery, evaluation and reporting processes for SRA's R&D portfolio across the five research programs: Varieties, Agronomy & Farming Systems, Crop Protection, Milling & Processing, and Adoption; 2. Carry out research and development aligned to SRA's Agronomy and Farming Systems and Crop Protection R&D programs; 3. Collaborate with the Variety Development, Adoption and Communications units in delivery of research outcomes; and 4. Provide secretariat service for the Research Funding Panel, which is a committee of the SRA Board.</p> <p>The success of the business unit is measured in terms of the impact generated, including: 1. Solutions developed, delivered, and adopted, measured as number of solutions and proportion (% or hectarage) adoption; 2. Improvements in district productivity, measured by increased tonnes per hectare and sugar per hectare, together with reduced production costs per hectare; and 3. Industry satisfaction with SRA's overall service offering measured from industry surveys.</p>
Position purpose	<p>The principal role of Technicians is to provide scientific and technical support to Researchers. Within broad guidelines about approach and milestones, a Technician undertakes a broad range of technical duties requiring scientific knowledge and professional judgement to solve complex problems. Technicians may also have responsibilities for the management of technical facilities and/or services.</p>
Key responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish experimental treatments with varying agronomic management practices in sugarcane farming systems trials. • Conduct soil and plant sampling in accordance with trial protocols. • Conduct plant health assessments in accordance with trial protocols. • Assist with the collection of productivity data during the harvesting of trials. • Collect, organise and format trial data in a clear and accurate manner in accordance with project requirements. • Maintain accurate records of all trial activities as per project requirements. • Collect, process and ship trial samples for analysis at external laboratories. • Assist with the management of sugarcane crops. • Maintain strict confidentiality of project intellectual property and all commercially sensitive information (essential). • Ensure that milestones, work objectives and deadlines applicable to various project activities are met, and projects are progressing as planned. • Supervise casual staff as required to meet project milestones. • Maintain scientific and agricultural equipment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment to fostering the continuous development of a safer, healthier and more sustainable workplace at SRA, in a way that would be expected for this position. • Adhere to SRA's policies, procedures, and Code of Conduct for Staff. • Ensure compliance obligations are upheld, and risks are managed. • Own your professional growth by engaging in development opportunities which enhance your skills and career. • Any other duties as required from time to time.
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Key success factors

Experience, knowledge and capabilities	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and capability to work outdoors in challenging conditions (hot and humid). • Willingness to work outside normal operating hours. • Excellent organisational skills and ability to manage competing priorities. • Ability to travel regularly to other SRA locations. • Ability to effectively communicate with sugarcane growers and researchers. <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sugarcane industry experience or other cropping experience. • Practical experience in operation and maintenance of agricultural implements and scientific equipment. • Computer skills and high attention to detail required for data entry and recording. • Demonstrated ability to develop, adapt and/or modify scientific techniques/processes under guidance to meet the needs of the experimental program. • Demonstrated high levels of initiative to solve technical issues associated with using agricultural equipment.
Qualifications, licences and training	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C class driver's licence <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A degree or diploma in agriculture, agronomy, or horticulture.