

# Position Description

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

## Position details

<b>SRA purpose</b>	<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>
<b>Business unit purpose</b>	<p>The Purpose of the R&amp;D business unit is to: 1. Lead the planning, delivery, evaluation and reporting processes for SRA's R&amp;D portfolio across the five research programs: Varieties, Agronomy &amp; Farming Systems, Crop Protection, Milling &amp; Processing, and Adoption; 2. Carry out research and development aligned to SRA's Agronomy and Farming Systems and Crop Protection R&amp;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 hectareage) 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>
<b>Position purpose</b>	<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>
<b>Key responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish experimental treatments with varying agronomic management practices in sugarcane farming systems trials.</li> <li>• Conduct soil and plant sampling in accordance with trial protocols.</li> <li>• Conduct plant health assessments in accordance with trial protocols.</li> <li>• Assist with the collection of productivity data during the harvesting of trials.</li> <li>• Collect, organise and format trial data in a clear and accurate manner in accordance with project requirements.</li> <li>• Maintain accurate records of all trial activities as per project requirements.</li> <li>• Collect, process and ship trial samples for analysis at external laboratories.</li> <li>• Assist with the management of sugarcane crops.</li> <li>• Maintain strict confidentiality of project intellectual property and all commercially sensitive information (essential).</li> <li>• Ensure that milestones, work objectives and deadlines applicable to various project activities are met, and projects are progressing as planned.</li> <li>• Supervise casual staff as required to meet project milestones.</li> <li>• Maintain scientific and agricultural equipment.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Adhere to SRA's policies, procedures, and Code of Conduct for Staff.</li> <li>• Ensure compliance obligations are upheld, and risks are managed.</li> <li>• Own your professional growth by engaging in development opportunities which enhance your skills and career.</li> <li>• Any other duties as required from time to time.</li> </ul>
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## Key success factors

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