

Position Description

Position title	Plant Breeding Technician
Reports to	Plant Breeder Central
Business unit	Variety Development
Location	The position is located primarily in Mackay
Direct reports	Supervision of casual employees as required

Position details

SRA purpose	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. We have highly dedicated and passionate people working on industry-critical projects to deliver tangible value outcomes and impact for our industry stakeholders.
Business unit purpose	The Variety Development business unit leads the development of world-class varieties to maximise a whole-of-industry profitability for sugar production, from the creation of new germplasm through to supply of new varieties to productivity service organisations for distribution to growers. The business unit continuously seeks to innovate variety production methods to improve efficiency for the industry and identify bio-security threats to protect the Sugar Industry. It incorporates novel traits into elite new varieties to improve profitability in current and future markets and identifies industry trends and issues impacting commercial variety performance. Long-term perspectives and plans are required to support future product diversification opportunities and potential changes to the production environment.
Position purpose	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.
Key responsibilities	• In collaboration with the Variety Development team, manage plant breeding operations including planting, harvesting and data collection. • To work in a team environment, accepting leadership and responsibilities for the conduct of selection activities in the plant breeding program. • Oversee early-stage trial activities, including sampling, harvesting, and data capture. • Oversee the operation of the sugar quality and juice laboratories. • Assist Variety Officer in all aspects of the Final Assessment Trial program, including material transfers and propagation activities as required. • Ensure all plant breeding activities are completed in an accurate, efficient and timely manner. • Ensure all field plans, raw data and sampling records are uploaded to the Plant Breeding database. • Assist the Plant Breeder in collating analysed data for clone selections. • Ensure biosecurity obligations and proper plant breeding farm hygiene practices are adhered to. • Contribute to the overall plant breeding program through active participation in team meetings. • Contribute towards building positive relationships with industry stakeholders, including active participation in industry events as required.

	• Assist in research projects, and any additional duties as required. • Demonstrate 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.
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Key success factors

Qualifications, experience, knowledge and capabilities	Essential • Professional experience within the agricultural industry (sugarcane industry highly regarded). • Experience with crop field work (planting and harvesting) or similar, and scientific data collection. • General understanding of scientific trial design and statistical analysis. • High level of competence in recording and maintaining accurate records. • Demonstrated ability to supervise field workers and to plan and coordinate a team of field workers for planting and harvesting research trials. • Demonstrated effective communication skills appropriate to the scope of activities required, and proven autonomy and self-sufficiency if required to carry out activities unsupervised. • High level of motivation and initiative with excellent organisation and problem-solving skills, and ability to manage competing priorities. • Ability to travel for plant breeding activities or training opportunities as required. Desirable • Tertiary qualification in agriculture or equivalent field. • Experience with sugarcane varieties. • Computer skills related to data entry and checking. • Experience or capability to gain experience with agricultural machinery and technologies. • A current driver's licence is required to drive SRA vehicles. • Heavy rigid licence.
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