Position Description

Position title	Weed Management Research Officer
Report to	Weed Science Leader
Business unit	Research and Business Development
Location	The position is located at Brandon, Burdekin
Direct reports	Supervise technical and casual staff 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 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. 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.
Position purpose	The principal role of Research Officers is to provide scientific and technical support to Senior Researchers. Within broad guidelines about approach and milestones, a Research Officer undertakes a broad range of technical duties requiring scientific knowledge and professional judgement to solve complex problems. They may also have responsibilities for the management of technical facilities and/or services.
Key responsibilities	• Coordinate local project activities as per project requirements. • Liaise with local SRA Industry Services, industry bodies and growers to implement project requirements and present project results as directed by project leader. • Ensure regular contact with collaborating growers to achieve project outcomes. • Maintain strict confidentiality of project intellectual property and all commercially sensitive information. • Ensure that milestones, work objectives and deadlines applicable to various project activities are met, and the project is progressing as planned. • Plan experimental designs with relevant assistance. • Manage the operation of agricultural implements (tractor with sprayer / mulcher / rotary hoes / etc.) to apply treatments. • Conduct soil, plant, seed sampling and plant health assessment in accordance with trial protocols. • 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.

	• Prepare reports, participate in the publication of research results and participate in the delivery of weed management courses/training. • Supervise technical and casual staff as required to meet project milestones. • Maintain scientific and agricultural equipment. • 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 additional duties as required.

Key success factors

Experience, knowledge and capabilities	**Essential** • Strong understanding of cropping systems and Ag research. • Experience and capability to work outdoors in challenging conditions (hot and humid). • Excellent organisational skills and ability to manage competing priorities. • Demonstrated ability to work well in a team, following instructions in collaboration with others to achieve common goals. • Demonstrated ability to develop, adapt and/or modify scientific techniques/processes under guidance to meet the needs of the experimental program. • Competency in computer skills and high attention to detail in respect to recording data and outcomes. • Demonstrated effective communication skills and proven autonomy and self-sufficiency to carry out activities unsupervised. • Willingness to work outside normal operating hours. • Ability to travel regularly to other SRA locations. **Desirable** • Practical experience in operation and maintenance of agricultural machinery, in particular tractors and sprayers. • Sugarcane industry experience. • Experience in an R&D environment. • Demonstrated high levels of initiative to solve technical issues associated with using agricultural equipment.
Qualifications, licences and training	**Essential** • Degree or Diploma level qualification in Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, Environmental, Biological Science or related discipline from a recognised tertiary training entity is required, candidates with extensive relevant experience gained in service will also be considered. • C class drivers' licence (manual). **Desirable** • Chemcert certificate.