

Job Description Form (JDF)

Position details

Position title:	Research Scientist
Position number:	70250278
Classification:	Specified Callings Level 1
Physical location:	Northam
Award:	PSA 1992
Agreement:	PSCSAA 2022
Pillar:	Primary Industries and Development
Directorate:	Broadacre Systems
Branch:	Grains

Reporting relationships

Reports to:	Senior Research Scientist (70250009), Specified Calling Level 3
	This position
Direct reports:	Nil

Role summary

Under the immediate guidance of senior staff, carries out assigned scientific research activities and investigational work. Contributes to the economic development of the agri-food industry with a focus on export led growth and/or protection of the resource base. The work generally impacts at the enterprise level or equivalent. Participates in scientific extension work.

About us

Our department (DPIRD) leads sustainable development of WA's regions and agriculture, aquaculture, food and fisheries sectors. Our Ministerial portfolios are Agriculture and Food, Fisheries and Regional Development.

We **unlock and guide economic opportunities** for these sectors and regions, balanced with the **stewardship of our land and aquatic resources**.

In everything we do we take the approach of:

- **Protect** through stewardship of our people, land and aquatic resources.
- **Grow** our primary industries and regions through balancing social, economic and environmental drivers.
- **Innovate** through a culture of inquiry and adaptation.

Our values

Our values are critical in creating a healthy and dynamic culture that helps each and all of us to make our best contribution, to develop a workplace where we feel excited about our work and results and where other people will increasingly want to join our team. Our values underpin how we operate:

- **Working together** – We achieve better outcomes with our colleagues, stakeholders and the community by engaging with their ideas, knowledge and expertise.
- **Acting with integrity** – We foster a culture where individuals are accountable for their actions, behaviours and contributions.
- **Responding with purpose** – Our actions and reactions are intentional, well thought out and align with a specific objective or goal.
- **Embracing curiosity and creativity** – There is always space to be innovative, through curious and creative thinking.
- **Aspiring for a better future** – Our combined efforts deliver sustainable results – environmentally, socially and economically.

Key responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the role include, but are not limited to, the following:

Research

- Assists with research to improve sustainable agricultural production.
- Assists with the design and conduct of laboratory and/or field experiments.
- Under supervision, collects, tabulates, analyses and interprets experimental data.
- Assists with economic analysis to improve policies, technologies and market opportunities, and to identify profitable opportunities for technical change and industry structural change.
- Maintains up-to-date knowledge and awareness of research, findings, issues and trends relevant to area of expertise.
- Under guidance, completes progress reports to meet project specifications.
- Under guidance, reviews and publishes relevant technical publications.
- Additional specialised capabilities may be required depending on requirements of specific roles.

Advisory and Communication

- Maintains effective working relationships with stakeholders, agri-industry groups, farmers, other agricultural research and development organisations and agribusinesses.
- Assists in enhancing the international competitiveness of agricultural industries by supporting individual enterprises to meet the standards for safety and quality of food and fibre products.
- Applies scientific knowledge in land use planning and integrated farming system analysis as required.
- Under guidance, promotes technology and systems and prepares and disseminates the results of research by mass media including reports, articles, broadcasts and field days so that findings may assist farmers, department officers and the wider scientific community.
- Assists with monitoring and reporting of policy, market, technological and organisational changes affecting the profitability of agricultural industries.
- Assists in the development and application of economic and farm business management methodologies to assist senior officers in project planning.
- Supports industry development and market intelligence through close contact with farmer groups, extension specialists, private consultants, marketers and end users.
- Assists in developing new initiatives and prepares project proposals to relevant funding bodies, as appropriate.
- Applies decision support systems and models to assist in conducting analysis and evaluation of systems and processes.

General

- Contributes to the preparation of project reports, reports on own activities as required and conducts general correspondence.
- Maintains budgeting processes as directed and assists with managing expenditure.
- Supervises technical and support staff as required.
- Cooperates and collaborates with staff from other organisations.
- Participates in section/project planning processes.
- Carries out duties under relevant State and Commonwealth Acts.
- Applies risk management to all business processes.
- Participates in incident and emergency management activities commensurate with capability, capacity, training and level of experience.
- Other duties as required.

Work related requirements

In the context of the role:

Essential criteria

Role specific

1. Knowledge of agri-food industry sustainable production systems and basic principles of scientific research.

Core capabilities

2. *Build effective relationships*: Well-developed written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills, including the ability to relate to people from a wide and varied range of backgrounds, both internal and external to the organisation.
3. *Challenge for innovation*: Ability to contribute to the development of plans and projects and able to use initiative to deliver improvements to outputs/outcomes.
4. *Think strategically*: Ability to apply good conceptual, analytical and problem skills to resolve identified issues.
5. *Deliver in a changing environment*: Ability to organise and prioritise work and complete tasks within deadlines as priorities change.
6. *Lead and empower others*: Proven ability to work autonomously and in a team environment.

Desirable criteria

1. Honours Degree in Agricultural Science or an approved equivalent.

Special requirements/equipment

- Bachelor degree in Agricultural Science, Science or an approved equivalent.
- Current Western Australian C or C-A class drivers' licence or equivalent.
- An acceptable National Police Certificate (police clearance) is required (if not currently held, must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense).
- The contract of employment specifies terms and conditions relating to this position.
- Occasional travel to and from metropolitan and regional offices may be required.
- DPIRD is an Emergency Management Agency and all employees may be required to work or travel during, or outside of, normal business hours to assist with incidents and emergencies.

Certification

The details contained in this document are an accurate statement of the duties, responsibilities and requirements of this position.

Delegated authority

Position title: Deputy Director General, Primary Industries Development
Endorsement Date: 26 November 2025