

# Job Description Form (JDF)

## Position details

Position title:	Research Scientist
Position number:	70250278
Classification:	Specified Callings Level 2
Physical location:	Northam
Award:	PSA 1992
Agreement:	PSCSAA 2022
Pillar:	Primary Industries Development
Directorate:	Broadacre Systems
Branch:	Grains

## Reporting relationships

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

## Role summary

Under general guidance and utilising independent judgement, conducts scientific research, investigational and extension 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. Conducts 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.

We draw on our grow, protect, innovate approach to deliver priorities under three outcome areas:

1. Management and stewardship of WA's land and aquatic resources.
2. Capable and empowered communities.
3. Dynamic regions and primary industries

## 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

- Conducts research to improve sustainable agricultural production.
- Designs and conducts laboratory and/or field experiments.
- Collects, tabulates, analyses and interprets experimental data.
- Conducts economic analysis to improve policies, technologies and market opportunities and to identify profitable opportunities for technical change and industry structural change.

- Develops and maintains up-to-date knowledge and awareness of research, findings, issues and trends relevant to area of expertise.
- Completes progress reports to meet project specifications.
- Reviews and publishes relevant scientific research.
- Drafts press releases and writes reports of industry significance.
- Publishes work in relevant scientific journals attracting local acclaim.
- Additional specialised capabilities may be required depending on requirements of specific roles.

### **Advisory and Communication**

- Maintains and promotes effective working relationships with stakeholders, agri-industry groups, farmers, other agricultural research and development organisations and agribusinesses.
- Enhances the international competitiveness of agricultural industries by impacting individual enterprises to meet the standards for safety and quality of food and fibre products.
- Applies scientific knowledge in land use planning, integrated farming system analysis and industry development as required.
- 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.
- Participates in monitoring and reporting of policy, market, technological and organisational changes affecting the profitability of agricultural industries.
- Participates in the development and application of economic and farm business management methodologies to assist senior officers in project planning.
- Promotes industry development and market intelligence through close contact with farmer groups, extension specialists, private consultants, marketers and end users.
- Supports the development of new initiatives and prepares project proposals to relevant funding bodies, as appropriate.
- Utilises decision support systems and models to assist in conducting analysis and evaluation of systems and processes.

### **General**

- Prepares project report, reports on own activities as required and conducts general correspondence.
- Assists in the preparation and maintenance of budgeting processes as directed and assists with managing expenditure.
- Supervises technical and support staff as required.
- Cooperates and collaborates with staff from other organisations.
- Contributes to section/project planning processes.
- Carries out duties under relevant State and Commonwealth Acts.
- Applies risk management to all business processes.
- Undertakes emergency response duties as required.

- 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. Demonstrated experience in scientific research and knowledge of agri-food industry sustainable production systems.

#### Core capabilities

2. *Build effective relationships*: Well-developed communication skills, both verbal and written, including the ability to consult, advise and convey information to stakeholders in order to achieve strategic outcomes.
3. *Challenge for innovation*: Ability to establish clear plans and timeframes, evaluate performance, identify the need for change, determine action and see tasks and projects through to completion.
4. *Think strategically*: Well-developed conceptual and analytical skills including the ability to provide practical solutions to challenging issues and problems.
5. *Deliver in a changing environment*: Well-developed project, time management and organisational skills including the ability to effectively contribute to the management of change.
6. *Lead and empower others*: Ability to lead teams and work collaboratively in a team environment contributing to the achievement of team goals.

### 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.

- A current and valid Western Australian "C" or "C-A" class (car) drivers' license or equivalent is required (if not currently held must be acquired prior to commencement at applicant's expense).
- 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