# Position Description

# Research Projects – CSOF2

The following information is for applicants

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| Advertised Job Title**:** | Agricultural Research Assistant |
| Job Reference: | 61562 |
| Relocation Assistance**:** | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required. |
| Applications Are Open To: | Australian/New Zealand Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents Only |
| Percentage of Client Focus - Internal: | 20% |
| Percentage of Client Focus - External: | 80% |
| Reports to the: | Team Leader |
| Number of Direct Reports: | 0 |
| Name and Contact Details For Applicant Enquiries: | Kellie Cooper via email: Kellie.Cooper@csiro.au |
| Contact Details For Applying: | Call 1300 984 220 or email careers.online@csiro.au.  |
| How to Apply: | Please apply online at [jobs.csiro.au](https://jobs.csiro.au/) and enter the requisition number**.** Internal applicants please apply via ‘Jobs Central’ through the ‘People Hub’ iconPlease do not email your application directly to Kellie Cooper. Applications received via this method may not be considered by the selection panel.  |

## Role Overview:

Research Projects staff in CSIRO collaborates in scientific and technological activities with other research staff usually by assisting with detailed planning, undertaking or assisting with experimental and observational, and in carrying out the more practical aspects of the work.

The CSIRO Cotton Breeding Program has significant research activities at the Australian Cotton Research Institute (ACRI) and tests advanced breeding materials at multiple off-station sites across the entire industry. Taking a hands-on approach, the Research Assistant will provide high levels of assistance in day-to-day operations and breeding research. Key focus areas include: supporting research activities through the practical application of field, crop, water and pesticide management.

This role will participate in the planning and conducting of breeding experiments at both ACRI, Myall Vale and off-station sites and assist the progress of breeding research both in the field and controlled environments. The Research Assistant will be required to work as an important team member in the Breeding Support team to develop enhanced new varieties suitable for all cotton growing regions of Australia.

## Duties and Key Result Areas:

* Operate machinery such as planting, cultivation, fertiliser, spraying and harvesting to manage cotton and other crops in rotation.
* Assist with irrigation of crops as directed and when required.
* Assist with maintenance of cotton pickers, module press and other farm equipment as required.
* Be an active member of a large team, assisting in running an extensive cotton breeding program aimed at developing improved cultivars.
* Respond courteously and efficiently to requests for your services, keep clients informed about progress and redirect requests to appropriate staff when required.
* Under general supervision follow all reasonable instructions including, the method/approach and the techniques that are to be used, in order to perform routine experimental or operational tasks.
* Provide assistance to staff with activities pertaining to the immediate work area and responsibilities, as required.
* Communicate openly, effectively and respectfully with all staff, clients and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of CSIRO’s reputation.
* Work collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary, often regionally dispersed research team, and business unit to carry out tasks in support of CSIRO scientific objectives.
* Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment plans and policies, Diversity initiatives and Zero Harm goals.
* Other duties as directed.

## CSIRO Competencies:

1. **Teamwork and Collaboration: Demonstrates initiative, actively contributing as a team member. Supports team decisions and keeps other team members up to date about individual actions. Shares all relevant and useful information. Pitches in and helps other team members when necessary.**
2. **Influence and Communication: Communicates basic facts in a courteous manner including posing appropriate questions to gain factual information.**
3. **Resource Management/Leadership: Provides instruction and assists other staff to complete allocated tasks and activities.**
4. **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Selects appropriate solutions to clearly defined problems using readily available information. Alternatives are limited and prescribed or apparent.
5. **Independence: Accepts personal responsibility for doing the job well. Looks for opportunities to improve the way things are done and makes recommendations accordingly.**
6. **Adaptability:** Accepts the need for change to work routines or technology.

## Selection Criteria:

*Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all selection criteria can be appointed.*

1. **Demonstrated understanding and experience in the competent operation of research and row crop equipment together with the management of irrigation systems.**
2. **The ability to lift, bend and undertake repetitive motions and the ability to undertake manual handling and operate equipment safely in accordance with Health and Safety Procedures.**
3. **The ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary, regionally dispersed research team, and carry out tasks under general direction from Scientific Researchers.**
4. **The ability and willingness to work in harsh and adverse conditions whilst maintaining health and safety requirements.**

## Desirable Criteria:

1. **Previous involvement with cotton production or experimentation. Cotton planting and harvesting experience desirable.**
2. Forklift (LF) licence and chemical application certificate (AQF3),**Competent Operation of Machinery (or equivalent).**

## Special Requirements:

Appointment to this role will be subject to the following conditions-

* Successful completion of medical check including audio screening prior to commencement.
* Current C class driver’s licence and the ability to obtain HC class driver’s licence

## About CSIRO:

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Find out more about CSIRO [Agriculture and Food](https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/AF)