



<b>Position</b>	Senior Field Officer/Researcher/Senior Researcher/Agronomist (Vegetable and Herbage seed)		
<b>Reports to</b>	Theme Leader, Maximising Productivity and Value		
<b>Company</b>	Foundation for Arable Research	<b>Date:</b>	September 2022
<b>Head office:</b>	Innovation Park, 185 Kirk Road, Templeton, Christchurch		
<b>Our vision:</b> A vibrant and profitable arable sector producing healthy, value added food, feed and seed for New Zealanders and the World			
<b>FAR's Core Values</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Excellence</li><li>❖ Independence</li><li>❖ Responsiveness</li><li>❖ Integrity</li><li>❖ Empathy</li></ul>			

#### **Position purpose**

The position will be responsible for the planning and/or conducting of agronomy, research and/or extension in vegetable and herbage seed crop production (including, but not exclusively, beet, radish, carrot, ryegrass and clover). It will also involve contributing to the priorities for seed crop research in consultation with the Seed Industry Research Centre (SIRC) programme manager, FAR research team, farmers, and other industry representatives. SIRC (<https://sirc.co.nz/>) is a partnership of key New Zealand seed industry stakeholders established with the aim of enhancing New Zealand's \$200 million seed export sector.

The position will be permanent and full-time, although FAR operates in blocks of 6 years in relation to the referendum of growers and ongoing employment is reliant on the successful outcome of the 2023 grower levy referendum. The location is likely to be the FAR Office at Templeton, but a base elsewhere in one of New Zealand's seed production regions may be negotiated.

Roles and responsibilities	
<b>Research &amp; Development</b>	<p>Senior Field Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct and/or manage (depending on experience) high-quality agronomy and/or research projects focused on maximizing the production efficiency, environmental outcomes and future resilience for vegetable and herbage seed.</li> <li>• Develop (depending on experience) and/or implement research and trial protocols that ensure projects will meet their objectives.</li> <li>• Collect and/or analyse (depending on experience) agronomy data, research results and prepare reports.</li> <li>• Any other duties which may be reasonably required by staff from time to time during the course of FAR's business</li> </ul> <p>Researcher or Senior Researcher <i>(As above for Senior Field Officer, with the following additions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain awareness of national and international trends and advances associated with vegetable and herbage seed production systems.</li> <li>• Collaboratively plan and prioritise FAR vegetable and herbage seed agronomy and/or research projects of importance to New Zealand growers and SIRC and in line with the FAR Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• Identify projects which should attract grant funds, prepare grant applications and manage grant funded projects in conjunction with FAR Project Leaders and SIRC.</li> <li>• Represent FAR, SIRC or the cropping industry on collaborative, multi-organisational research and extension projects.</li> <li>• Design, high-quality agronomy and/or research projects focused on maximizing the production efficiency, environmental outcomes and future resilience for vegetable and herbage seed.</li> </ul>
<b>Extension</b>	<p>Senior Field Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to field days, workshops and conferences for arable growers, science groups and other industry organisations.</li> </ul> <p>Researcher or Senior Researcher <i>(As above for Senior Field Officer, with the following additions)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organise and manage field days, workshops and conferences for arable growers, science groups and other industry organisations.</li> <li>• Prepare extension information on projects for farmers in collaboration with the FAR Communications Manager and SIRC representatives. These will include Arable Updates, media releases, booklets, internet etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no direct line management responsibility with this position.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with FAR health and safety policies and procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ongoing capabilities through training and professional development.</li> </ul>

### **Relevant skills/qualifications**

A relevant tertiary qualification (Bachelors/Masters/PhD in Plant Science, Agriculture) and/or experience (preferably >3 years) in agronomy, research, development and/or extension on vegetable and herbage seed.

Relevant skills include:

- Other plant-based research and/or agronomy experience.
- An ability to relate well to and understand the requirements of farmers.
- Excellent understanding of field experimental protocols, design and/or statistical analysis etc.
- Excellent written and verbal communication including presentation skills.
- An understanding of New Zealand primary industries and in particular the arable industry.
- Good knowledge of vegetable and herbage seed production as it relates to New Zealand arable farm systems.
- Well developed project management skills would be highly desirable.

Interpersonal skills include:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Organised and good at working to deadlines.
- A collegial and inclusive approach to work activities and being a member of a team.
- Self-driven and with the ability to work independently.
- Able to work under pressure and to maintain high standards of workmanship.
- Appropriate computer competencies (e.g. MS Word, excel, statistical packages).
- Full driver's license.