POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Officer – Cropping Systems Research
Organisation Unit: Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: 3024016
Type of Employment: Full time, fixed term for 6 months
Classification: Research Academic Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience –the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11 billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

Organisational Environment

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is a research institute of the University of Queensland (UQ) which was established in 2010 and comprises of three research centres – the Centre for Plant Science, the Centre for Animal Science, the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences.

QAAFI’s team of 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff undertake high impact science for agriculture and food industries. The institute’s strong partnership with the Queensland Government provides our researchers with a direct link to the agriculture industry in Queensland, and world class field research facilities throughout Queensland. Agriculture is one of UQ’s highest ranked research fields nationally and internationally and QAAFI is a global leader in agricultural research in subtropical and tropical production systems.

QAAFI scientists are driven to make a difference to the agriculture and food industries and have over 150 collaborators worldwide.

Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at http://www.qaafi.uq.edu.au

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of this position is to produce recommendations for sorghum, and maize growers of the Northern GRDC (Grains Research and Development Corporation) Region on how to better match genetics and agronomic management across Queensland environments using information from existing and new regional trials.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

• Analyse existing data sets and produce manuscripts for peer-review on crop agronomy and eco-physiology.
• Contribute with the design, implementation and monitoring sorghum and maize field trials to research genotype by management by environment interactions.
• Contribute towards the production of technical reports for farmers on hybrid type site-specific recommendations to support growers matching commercially available genetics and management to environmental conditions in Queensland.
• Report updates on the project website.
• Contribute towards the reporting on contracted milestones to funding providers.
• Collaborate with modellers and statisticians to analyse results and produce journal articles.

Other
Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:
• the University’s Code of Conduct
• requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute/School
• the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University sustainability responsibilities and procedures
• requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related responsibilities and procedures developed by the University

Organisational Relationships
The position reports to Joseph Eyre (Research Fellow).

SELECTION CRITERIA
Qualifications

Essential
• PhD or equivalent in the area of crop agronomy or crop eco-physiology.

Knowledge and Skills

Essential
• Applies the principles of crop eco-physiology to produce practical recommendations for sorghum, wheat and maize farmers. Experience in bio-technological/molecular sciences/breeding research areas are not beneficial when applying for this position.
• Uses genotypic and environmental characterisations to match hybrids and agronomy to expected seasonal conditions.
• Makes new connections and generates innovative ideas, adding value and providing alternative solutions to problems and challenges.
• Writes clearly and succinctly in a variety of communication styles to convey messages that will achieve desired effect.
• The successful applicant will hold valid Queensland driver and agricultural chemical application licences.
Experience

**Essential**
- Evidence of a contribution to research in the form of quality manuscripts published in leading peer-reviewed agricultural journals.
- Scripting using the R programming language.
- Experience designing and monitoring field trials.
- Experience using the APSIM crop simulation model.

**Desirable**
- Experience liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives.
- Experience interacting with industry stakeholders to conduct research and communicate research outcomes.

Personal Qualities

**Essential**
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Displays high level communication and interpersonal skills, relates well to people at all levels, uses diplomacy and tact, uses sound judgment on sensitive and confidential issues, builds constructive and effective relationships.
- Encourages collaboration with peers to solve problems and is seen as a cooperative team player.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Applications are also encouraged from women.