



Position	Researcher / Senior Researcher / Agronomist - Seed Production		
Reports to	General Manager R&D or Senior Researcher - Seed Production (based on experience)		
Company	Foundation for Arable Research	Date:	August 2025
Head office:	Innovation Park, 185 Kirk Road, Templeton, Christchurch		
Our vision: A vibrant and profitable arable sector producing healthy, value added food, feed and seed for New Zealanders and the World			
FAR’s Core Values			
<div><div>❖</div>Excellence</div> <div><div>❖</div>Independence</div> <div><div>❖</div>Responsiveness</div> <div><div>❖</div>Integrity</div> <div><div>❖</div>Empathy</div>			

<b>Purpose</b>
<p>This full-time position will work in consultation with the FAR Research team and the herbage and vegetable seed industry to deliver research, agronomy and extension targeted at enhancing the profitability, resilience and sustainability of seed production across New Zealand.</p> <p>Depending on the experience of the appointed person, the position may also be responsible for leading the investment and delivery of research and extension within FAR's 'Maximising the productivity and value of cropping systems' theme, one of three research themes focused on delivering benefit to New Zealand arable growers.</p> <p>The position will likely be based from the FAR office at Templeton in Christchurch, although there is opportunity to work from elsewhere in Canterbury for the right candidate. It is expected the role will involve some travel as FAR undertakes seed research and extension activities across New Zealand.</p> <p>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 2029 grower levy referendum.</p>

Roles and responsibilities	
Research & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to the collaborative design and planning of applied field-scale research and demonstration trials, including protocols, treatments, and trial layouts, ensuring robust experimental methodology.</li><li>• Conduct sampling and assessments across trials, including monitoring of plant and canopy development, soil nutrient status and quality, and the incidence and severity of diseases, pests, and weeds, as well as measuring crop yield and quality, using sound experimental practices.</li><li>• Manage research data by entering, organising, and maintaining accurate and reliable datasets.</li><li>• Coordinate the implementation and management of research trials and sites in partnership with growers, research collaborators, funding organisations, and other industry sectors.</li><li>• Engage with farmer groups to support the on-farm delivery and adoption of project outcomes.</li></ul>

Roles and responsibilities	
Research & Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the right candidate, additional responsibilities may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staying informed of national and international developments in arable farming, agronomy, and seed production.</li> <li>Representing FAR or the cropping industry on research and extension initiatives funded by the Seed industry Research Centre (SIRC), MBIE, and MPI.</li> <li>Identifying and pursuing external funding opportunities by preparing and submitting grant applications (e.g., MPI-PSGF, AGMARDT, MfE).</li> <li>Overseeing grant-funded projects in collaboration with FAR staff and farmer groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Theme leadership responsibilities may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leading the development of FAR's research strategy to guide the delivery of research and extension activities, in close consultation with key FAR personnel and grower or industry representatives.</li> <li>Collaborating with senior management and project leaders to ensure high-quality, timely delivery of research outputs and outcomes, including regular review of internal projects, programmes, and deliverables.</li> <li>Working closely with administrative staff, senior leaders, and external agencies to support effective financial oversight and resource management across programmes and projects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparing scientific information and reporting to a wide range of stakeholder groups (e.g. Arable Updates, field days, workshops, booklets, Website, emails and discussion sessions for growers).</li> <li>The presentation of research findings back to farmers and seed industry members at field walks, workshops and other FAR events.</li> </ul>
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line management of a small team will be dependent on experience of the employee.</li> <li>Project or programme reporting to the SIRC technical manager.</li> </ul>
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributing proactively to a positive, supportive research team.</li> <li>Compliance with FAR health and safety policies and procedures.</li> </ul>

#### Relevant qualifications and experience

- A relevant tertiary qualification (e.g. BSc/MSc in Plant Science, Agronomy, Agriculture).
- AND/OR at least five years of practical experience in agronomy, field research, or extension (ideally seed production or other arable system).

#### Relevant skills will include:

- An ability to relate well to farmers and understand their requirements.
- An understanding of New Zealand primary industries and in particular the arable industry and arable farming.
- Practical knowledge of annual crop (preferably herbage or vegetable seed) agronomy.
- Expertise in field experimental protocols, trial design, trial operation and management.
- An ability to communicate research concepts to stakeholders in a simple and digestible way.

**Interpersonal skills will 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 licence.