# Position Description

### Date: March 2016 Ref: 16346

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| POSITION: | Research Economist |
| GROUP: | Commercial |
| RESPONSIBLE TO: | Impact Evaluation Manager |
| LOCATION: | Auckland or Lincoln |
| KEY RELATIONSHIPS: | **Internal**: Impact Evaluation Manager, Senior Management Team members (particularly Group General Manager Commercial, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Scientist and CEO), Strategic Marketing Manager, Communications Manager, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment Business Manager, Intellectual Property Manager, Operations Managers, Sector Champions, Science Group Leaders, Business Managers, Research Team Leaders, Program Leaders, Investment Process Manager  **External**:  Industry representatives, commercial partners, growers, industry service providers |
| TENURE:  delete if not applicable | Permanent |

## Purpose of the Position

Generate high quality, robust data and analyses to:

* Determine the impact of Plant & Food Research (PFR) research programs funded by our private and public customers through retrospective case study analyses
* Analyse the impact of PFR’s internal investments (Core, royalties, Growth Fund, etc.) through retrospective case study analyses
* Support our investment portfolio decision making by providing evidence of the value of prospective internal investments (Core, Royalties, Growth Fund, etc.)
* Enable existing and new customers to identify areas of investment with high impact potential in collaboration with Sector Champions, Business Managers and Leaders, and Program Leaders
* Support communications to internal and external stakeholders (reporting collateral)
* Contribute to the development of new research approaches to impact evaluation in collaboration with New Zealand and international economists and social scientists in order to build PFR’s reputation in this area (knowledge generation)
* Support a growing awareness of the value of economic evaluation in the design, delivery and reporting of research programs at PFR (cultural awareness and learning)

## Accountabilities

* Undertake retrospective impact evaluations to meet the needs of internal and external stakeholders, including the Board and executive, Investment Committee, Sector Champions and Working Groups, Program Leaders, Impact Evaluation Manager, Marketing and Communications specialists, our industry partners and Government agencies
* In collaboration with Program Leaders, support the development of a value chain approach to our R&D programs by undertaking economic assessment to help identify opportunities to increase value along the supply chain, from raw materials to consumers, and enable increased engagement with stakeholders to help realise these opportunities
* Deliver value to our customers by evaluating and defining high RoI business opportunities in collaboration with Sector Champions, Business Managers and Leaders, and Program Leaders
* Increase the quality and competitiveness of research proposals targeting a range of internal and external funding sources by developing business cases and value propositions
* Contribute to the theory and practice of impact evaluation in New Zealand and internationally through networks with economics and social science experts
* Other duties as and when required.

## Person Specification

### Professional Knowledge and Skills

* Ideally, a PhD in economics or agricultural economics
* Experience (5‒10 years) analysing qualitative and quantitative data, problem solving and econometrics
* Experience (5‒10 years) in economic evaluation and econometrics, including the ability to develop and run evaluation activities within R&D programs in collaboration with Program Leaders
* Strong collaborative behaviours to foster team building across areas of disciplinary expertise and delivery of results
* Advanced inter-personal skills and presentation skills to effectively communicate the results of economic analyses to various audiences verbally and in writing
* Knowledge and experience in agriculture, horticulture and/or seafood an advantage
* Proficiency in Microsoft® Office Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Adobe® Acrobat, and experience with graphical software packages.

### Professional Behaviours

The holder of this position is expected to consistently demonstrate the behaviours described in the Plant & Food Research Leadership Framework. These include:

* Personal Characteristics, which means: being generous, having courage, showing humility, being self aware, trustworthy and positive
* Personal Capability, which means: demonstrating personal expertise, problem solving, being innovative or managing innovation, having business acumen, and professional development
* Focus On Results, which means: taking responsibility for results, organising and setting standards
* Interpersonal, which means: communication, collaborating with others, building relationships, inspiring and developing people.
* Leading Change, which means: having a strategic perspective or a sense of the “bigger picture”, championing or participating in change, and connecting to the outside world, or bringing in fresh ideas.

## Measures of Performance

An annual review of performance will be conducted by the Impact Evaluation Manager.

Success in this role will be measured by:

* Demonstrated performance against the accountabilities listed above
* Ability to operate within recognised safety standards to ensure personal and team safety.