



Research Director

Job Information Pack

Position Number:	0080, 0081
Classification:	Executive Level 2, Specialist 2
Salary:	\$183,548 – \$206,120 plus 15.4% superannuation
Section:	Research
Location:	Canberra, ACT
Employment Type:	Ongoing

About ACIAR:

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research ([ACIAR](#)) is a globally unique organisation operating in a dynamic and complex environment under the *Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Act 1982*. ACIAR is a [statutory](#) agency within the Australian Government's Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio. Our headquarters are in Bruce (Canberra). Further information on our current projects, programs and priorities can be found at <https://www.aciar.gov.au/>.

ACIAR fosters international agricultural research-for-development partnerships between researchers, governments, civil society and the private sector. These partnerships aim to improve food security, reduce poverty and enhance environmental sustainability in partner countries.

ACIAR-supported research and capacity development programs contribute significantly to [Australia's International Development Policy](#), enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, building community resilience and increasing science and policy skills of individuals and organisations in partner countries and in Australia.

In 2022, the [Commission for International Agricultural Research](#) initiated a mid-term review of the ACIAR 10-year strategy to ensure it was fit-for-purpose in light of the unfolding global food security crisis, ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and new food system challenges due to climate change and other global issues. The external review panel made several recommendations to reflect our changing world, and the revised [ACIAR 10-Year Strategy 2018–27](#) was launched in October 2022.

In August 2023, ACIAR's new [CEO](#) commenced and initiated a strategic review of the ACIAR organisational structure.

Please be advised while ACIAR is supportive of flexible working arrangements, this position requires face to face contact at our headquarters in Canberra.

About the position:

ACIAR is hiring two new Research Director (RDs) roles which will report to the General Manager Research. Research Directors will each manage a team of Research Program Managers and administrative staff that are responsible for the design, delivery and monitoring of ACIAR research investments. The teams under the

supervision of the Research Directors deliver on ACIAR's mandate of brokering, funding and managing research partnerships that catalyse more productive, climate resilient, sustainable food and natural resource systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia.

Working closely with the General Manager Research, the Research Directors will ensure that ACIAR's investments are aligned with country partner priorities, ACIAR's Strategic Plan and Australia's International Development Policy, and will engage effectively with the Australian and regional agricultural innovation ecosystem.

The Research Directors will be responsible for maintaining effective working relationships across ACIAR, efficiently collaborating with the corporate and partnership branches of the organisation to ensure effective delivery of investments.

The Research Directors will lead by example, ensuring that ACIAR consistently adheres to policies and procedures, and operates within the legislative framework and the requirements of the Australian Public Service.

While the division of leadership responsibility between the two Research Directors may be varied based on organisational need, in the first instance, responsibility will be divided as follows:

- Climate Resilient Production Systems: comprising ACIAR's Horticulture, Crops, Social Systems, and Livestock programs.
- Resource Futures: comprising ACIAR's Agribusiness, Forestry, Fisheries, Soil and Land Management, and Water programs.

Each Research Director may also be asked to provide strategic coordination and leadership of cross-cutting multidisciplinary research and capacity building initiatives comprising multiple projects and other investments from across ACIAR.

DUTIES INCLUDE:

Under the direction of the General Manager Research, the Research Director will:

1. Lead a team of research program managers and administrative staff to design and deliver research investments in line with ACIAR's Strategic Plan and Investment Framework and Australia's International Development Policy.
2. Within the context of the ACIAR 10-Year Strategy and considering regional and country partner priorities and Australia's comparative advantage, set the direction and targets for their team.
3. Lead by example in implementing ACIAR's policies and procedures, ensuring policies and procedures are adhered to in a high-quality manner throughout the research portfolio.
4. Contribute to ACIAR's strategic engagement with Australia's agricultural innovation system to ensure ACIAR is engaging with capacity that can deliver the greatest impact.
5. Be responsible for effective and efficient expenditure to maximise impact of ACIAR's investment in the research portfolio in line with Government (both Australian and partner country) requirements.
6. Ensure engagement and collaboration across ACIAR's branches of Research, Partnerships and Corporate to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of the research theme.
7. Establish and maintain robust networks with research institutions in partner countries and their innovation partners across value chains and in local communities that support research initiatives.
8. Provide expert advice to ACIAR and Australian government bodies on emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges in agricultural research in the Indo-Pacific.

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9. Encourage the adoption of innovative research methods and technologies to enhance the impact and efficiency of research projects.
 10. Influence the development of research policies and strategies within ACIAR by providing insights and recommendations based on regional research experiences and outcomes.

Eligibility

- **Australian Citizenship** - our successful candidate must be an Australian citizen
- **Security clearance** - our successful candidate may be required to obtain and maintain a Negative Vetting 1 security clearance

Contact

After reading this “*Information Pack*” should you require additional information you are encouraged to contact Dr James Quilty James.Quilty@aciar.gov.au or HR 02 6217 0500.

What you’ll need to be successful (*selection criteria*)

Our successful Research Directors will possess:

1. A postgraduate degree in Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Agricultural Economics, International Development, or a related field complemented by extensive experience leading and managing agricultural research in a developing country context.
2. Demonstrated ability to effectively lead a diverse multidisciplinary team of specialist and generalist managers and administrative staff to ensure the delivery of research objectives are in line with ACIAR’s framework, partner country and regional needs.
3. Demonstrated experience leading and managing multidisciplinary research projects in one or more of the following regions: Africa, the Pacific, Southeast Asia or South Asia.
4. Proven experience in setting strategic directions and targets for a research portfolio, and an understanding of regional priorities and Australia’s International Development Policy, including the ability to proactively manage team workloads, priorities and outcomes.
5. Extensive experience in adhering to and effectively implementing policies and procedures within a research context.
6. Strong stakeholder liaison and communication skills, including with the Australian and global agricultural innovation system, to support impactful collaborations.
7. Ability to work collaboratively across functions, including ACIAR’s Research, Partnerships, and Corporate branches, to enhance team efficiency and effectiveness.
8. Prior experience in a similar role within an Australian or International research or development organisation, the Australian Public Service or similar government setting.

What we need from you

Tell us in less than 2 pages why you are the right person, what you can offer, and how your skills, knowledge, experience, and qualification are relevant to the role. Please note there are two options for uploading your pitch; you can input your pitch into the covering letter textbox or upload as an attachment (PDF preferred).

Try not to duplicate information that can already be found in your resume but do highlight any specific examples or achievements that will demonstrate your ability to perform the role.

Please attach a concise resume to your application which clearly outlines your work experience, educational qualifications, and relevant skills.

In the application form you will need to provide the details of two referees who can attest and validate your credentials and suitability for the role.

NB: All ACIAR employees demonstrate a commitment to the APS Code of Conduct and Values, as well as to workplace diversity and occupational health and safety. It is also expected that ACIAR employees will have appropriate cross-cultural sensitivities