



## Research Program Manager (Multiple)

Job Information Pack

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Position Number:	Multiple
Classification:	Executive Level 2 Specialist
Section:	Research
Location:	Canberra, ACT
Employment Type:	Ongoing

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### About ACIAR:

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is a 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 Canberra. Further information on our current projects, programs and priorities can be found at <https://www.aciar.gov.au/>.

ACIAR fosters bilateral and multilateral agricultural research-for-development partnerships between researchers, governments, civil society and the private sector. These partnerships aim to tackle the impacts of climate change, improve food and nutrition security, reduce poverty and enhance the sustainability of impacts in partner countries.

ACIAR's research programs, and the interlinked capacity development, 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.

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## About the position

ACIAR is hiring 4 Research Program Managers (RPM), each leading a portfolio of investment in our Crops, Fisheries, Horticulture, Soil and Land Management programs.

The RPM positions are a key part of ACIAR's distinctive partnership brokering model of research investment in partner countries. The RPM role requires commissioning, co-developing, and managing research-for-development investments (projects and programs) that link the Australian innovation system with ACIAR partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region. RPMs ensure that ACIAR's investments contribute to addressing country partner priorities, ACIAR's Strategic Plan, and Australia's International Development Policy.

ACIAR's research investments involve partnerships principally with national research systems, including universities and public research and development agencies with a growing engagement with the private sector, civil society and others focussed on sustainably scaling innovation to address critical challenges. It's important to note that RPMs are responsible for co-designing, commissioning, monitoring and evaluating a portfolio of research projects, they do not undertake research. The approach also enables ACIAR to learn lessons from previous and current projects for continual improvements.

Each RPM will report to a Research Director and must work collaboratively with ACIAR's other research programs to ensure excellence and efficiency in project design and implementation, with the opportunity to engage in transdisciplinary research approaches. They must also adhere to ACIAR policies and procedures and operate within the legislative framework and requirements of the Australian Public Service.

The RPMs will contribute to ACIAR's broader research and capacity development portfolio, including collaboration in the design and review of ACIAR projects in other programs, scientific and policy submissions and reviews, and service on relevant internal committees. Critically, RPMs will work collaboratively with ACIAR's Country Network throughout the Indo-Pacific and across the organisation to capture opportunities for cross-program and cross-organisation synergies. The RPMs will often be required to work with whole-of-government initiatives, including with DFAT and DAFF.

The research programs have a geographic focus in the Indo-Pacific, fostering innovative solutions through the development of new knowledge and evidence with a strong focus in addressing climate change through mitigation, adaptation and resilience in conjunction with food and nutritional security, primarily in smallholder systems in developing countries. The position is based in Canberra and requires international travel approximately six times per year.

### Fisheries

The ACIAR Fisheries Program seeks to catalyse more productive, climate-suitable and sustainable fisheries and aquatic farming systems and fisheries-based food systems through international research partnerships. This program is directed at: innovative resource management approaches; building climate resilience and adaptation capacity at the community level, the elimination of serious adverse environmental impacts arising from fishing or aquaculture practices; sustainable utilisation of existing wild harvests; the development of productive and sustainable aquatic farming; maximising the benefit of fisheries resources for economic and environmental resilience at a community scale.

### Horticulture

The ACIAR Horticulture Program seeks to improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of horticultural production systems. The program emphasises work to improve the lives and livelihoods of people (especially women), sustainable production and postharvest value chains. This approach is done in conjunction with building the capacity of horticultural value chain to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as building the resilience of stakeholders, particularly smallholder producers, in those value chains. The program favours a whole-of-system approaches to foster sustainable development that is equitable and enables

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producers and other stakeholders to respond to market needs, while reducing inputs and minimising any negative impacts of horticulture on the natural resource base and human health.

### **Soil and Land Management**

The Soil and Land Management Research Program aims to enhance prosperity of smallholder farmers in conjunction with maximising the capacity of those smallholder farmers to respond to climate change, through sustainable evidence-based landscape and field-scale interventions, agronomic practice, nutrient management, intensification and diversification of farming systems. The Program seeks to support research that provides valuable soil, climate (including carbon) and natural resource information to support decision making and enables.

### **Crops**

The Crops Program seeks to improve the profitability and sustainability of field crop-based farming systems, in conjunction with building the capacity of those systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change, through facilitation and funding of collaborative applied research and development between partner countries and Australia. The Program focuses on identifying and addressing crop improvement and management problems, developing innovative methods and technologies to enhance climate resilience and climate-smart agricultural practices, and sharing groundbreaking results with stakeholders.

### **DUTIES INCLUDE:**

Under the general direction of a Research Director, RPM's will manage their specific portfolio and contribute to delivery of the ACIAR's Strategy through the following duties:

- 1.** Support the process of prioritisation and development of investment opportunities across the Research and Partnerships Branches of ACIAR based on partner country priorities and comparative advantage to deliver on ACIAR's Strategic Plan and Investment Framework, and Australia's International Development Policy.
- 2.** In response to investment priorities allocated to the Program, facilitate the development, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of a program of activities in a timely manner to meet organisational KPIs including:
  - i.** identifying and conceiving original, innovative and high-quality research projects that effectively respond to partner country priorities and involve research, development and capacity building;
  - ii.** brokering research partnerships and managing the preparation and assessment of research proposals;
  - iii.** ensuring a sound the scientific and technical basis of contracts for approved projects;
  - iv.** developing and maintaining a robust programmatic Theory of Change and associated Monitoring and Evaluation activities aligned with the ACIAR Strategy and reporting framework;
  - v.** managing and monitoring the projects by led by commissioned and collaborating agencies; and
  - vi.** evaluating the results of research in programs and projects and working in collaboration with others in Research and Capacity Development and with the Partnership Branch of ACIAR to identify opportunities for capacity development, extension and outreach initiatives.

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3. Work collaboratively across the organisation particularly with the Partnerships and Corporate functions of ACIAR to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of investing in bilateral and multilateral research partnerships.
  4. Ensure high quality and consistent adherence to ACIAR policies, procedures and systems, operating within the legislative framework and the requirements of the Australian Public Service.
  5. Provide expertise and support in market scanning for research and capacity development related procurement activities.
  6. Maximise the potential contribution of project findings to development outcomes through effective and innovative impact pathways by identifying next and end-users of the research results and facilitating the appropriate communication of the outputs of ACIAR projects.
  7. Contribute to the future strategic direction of ACIAR's research through learning from current and past investments, in-country partnership insights and Australia's comparative advantage in international agricultural research.
  8. Contribute expertise to cross-cutting research initiatives and projects across other parts of the ACIAR research portfolio including through peer review of other ACIAR investments, input to submissions and reviews, and participation on internal committees.

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

1. Demonstrated experience in managing a diverse portfolio of research and/or innovation investments, ensuring alignment with organisational strategy, partner country priorities, and leveraging comparative advantages.
2. A proven history of contributing to research partnerships through insights gained from current and past investments and understanding of international agricultural research context.
3. Established track record in facilitating the design and execution of research projects in a programmatic manner, including brokering international research partnerships to deliver impactful investments.
4. Demonstrated ability to maximize the development impact of research findings, utilising innovative pathways and partnerships, and effectively communicating results, including representation at international forums.
5. Proven competency in managing procurement processes, budgeting, financial management, and reporting in line with organisational policies and standards and with Australian and partner government requirements.
6. Track-record of maintaining productive networks with research institutions within Australia and in partner countries and their partners across value chains and local communities to support research initiatives to maximise impact.
7. Evidence of managing research projects in partner countries in on or more of the following regions: SE Asia, the Pacific, South Asia, or Africa.
8. Role specific capability requirements include a comprehensive knowledge and research experience in:
  - **RPM Fisheries:** fisheries and other marine and freshwater resources systems and their role in food and nutrition security and economic resilience of resource dependent communities with postgraduate qualifications relevant to aquaculture, fisheries, or the management of marine resources.
  - **RPM Horticulture:** in horticultural systems management and associated value chains, emerging threats and opportunities to these systems, and their role in food and nutrition security and economic resilience of households and rural communities with postgraduate qualifications relevant to horticultural production systems.
  - **RPM Soil and Land Management:** soil and land management in agricultural systems, with demonstrated knowledge of sustainable soil and land management practices, farming systems research and their role in food and nutrition security and economic resilience of resource dependent communities with postgraduate qualifications relevant to horticultural production systems.
  - **RPM Crops:** field crop improvement and management in agricultural systems with demonstrated knowledge of climate resilient farming systems, field crop breeding, physiology, genetics, biotechnology and agronomy and their role in food and nutrition security and economic resilience of resource dependent international research management experience, particularly in a development context.

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## What we need from you

Tell us in 1000 words or less why you are the right person, what you can offer, and how your skills, knowledge, experience, and qualification are relevant to the role. At the top of your pitch, please indicate which role you wish to be considered for; Fisheries, Horticulture, Soil and Land Management or Crops, a combination or all. 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).

Do not duplicate your resume. Do highlight with specific examples or achievements that capacity you will bring 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 validate your credentials and suitability for the role.

## Eligibility

- **Postgraduate degree** in relevant discipline
- **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 [HRsupport@aciar.gov.au](mailto:HRsupport@aciar.gov.au) or 02 6217 0500.

## Additional Information

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

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.