



Australian Government  
Australian Centre for  
International Agricultural Research



**Job  
information  
pack**



# Research Director

Make a difference in the world. Work at ACIAR

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Position Number:	0080
Classification:	Executive Level 2, Specialist 2
Salary:	\$190,522 - \$213,952 plus 15.4% superannuation
Branch:	Research
Location:	Forrest ACT
Employment Type:	Ongoing

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***Support us to grow food efficiently, improve human nutrition, empower women and girls, reduce poverty, and manage natural resources sustainably.***

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is a statutory agency within the Australian Government's Foreign Affairs and Trade Portfolio. It operates under the *Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Act 1982*.

ACIAR invests in collaborative research and knowledge-sharing partnerships to improve the livelihoods and resilience of smallholder farming, fishing and forestry communities in Africa, South Asia and the Indo-Pacific. We work with governments and institutions to grow food more efficiently, increase food system resilience, improve human nutrition, empower women and girls, reduce poverty, and manage natural resources sustainably. Our partnerships prioritise economic, social and environmental benefits for partner countries, and contribute to the development of our international and Australian partner institutions' research, policy and leadership capabilities. Further information on our current projects, programs and priorities can be found at <https://www.aciar.gov.au/>.

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

## About this exciting opportunity

ACIAR is a small agency with a domestic and international focus. It comprises three branches: Research, Partnerships and Corporate. The Research branch comprises three science streams and capacity development.

### Research Director

ACIAR has a team of three Research Directors that oversee ACIAR's research investments. Each Research Director manages 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 partner countries and Australia.

Working closely with the Executive Team, the Research Directors 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.

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The Research Directors are 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 lead by example, and ensure 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 three Research Directors may vary based on organisational needs, this position will likely be responsible for ACIAR's Horticulture, Crops, Agribusiness and Livestock programs. In addition, the role will have a geographic focus likely to be South East Asia.

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 general direction of the Chief Executive Officer, 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.
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.

- **Mandatory Qualifications** – our successful candidates will possess a postgraduate degree in Agricultural Science or a related field complemented by extensive experience leading and managing agricultural research in a developing country context.

## Contact

After reading this “*Information Pack*” should you require additional information you are encouraged to contact [HRsupport@aciarc.gov.au](mailto:HRsupport@aciarc.gov.au) or 02 6217 0500.

## What you’ll need to excel in these challenging roles (*selection criteria*)

Our successful Research Director will possess:

1. A postgraduate degree in Agricultural Science 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 Southeast Asia and preferably one of the following regions: Africa, the Pacific, 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 2 pages 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. 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 (PDF preferred) which clearly outlines your work experience, educational qualifications, and relevant skills.

Please also provide 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 workplace health and safety. It is also expected that ACIAR employees will have appropriate cross-cultural sensitivities.*