

Position Number: **Benchmark Job #079**

Ministry: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Branch: Agricultural Division

Location: Abbotsford Agricultural Centre

Working Title: **Agricultural Technologist**

Level: Range 21

NOC Code: 2221

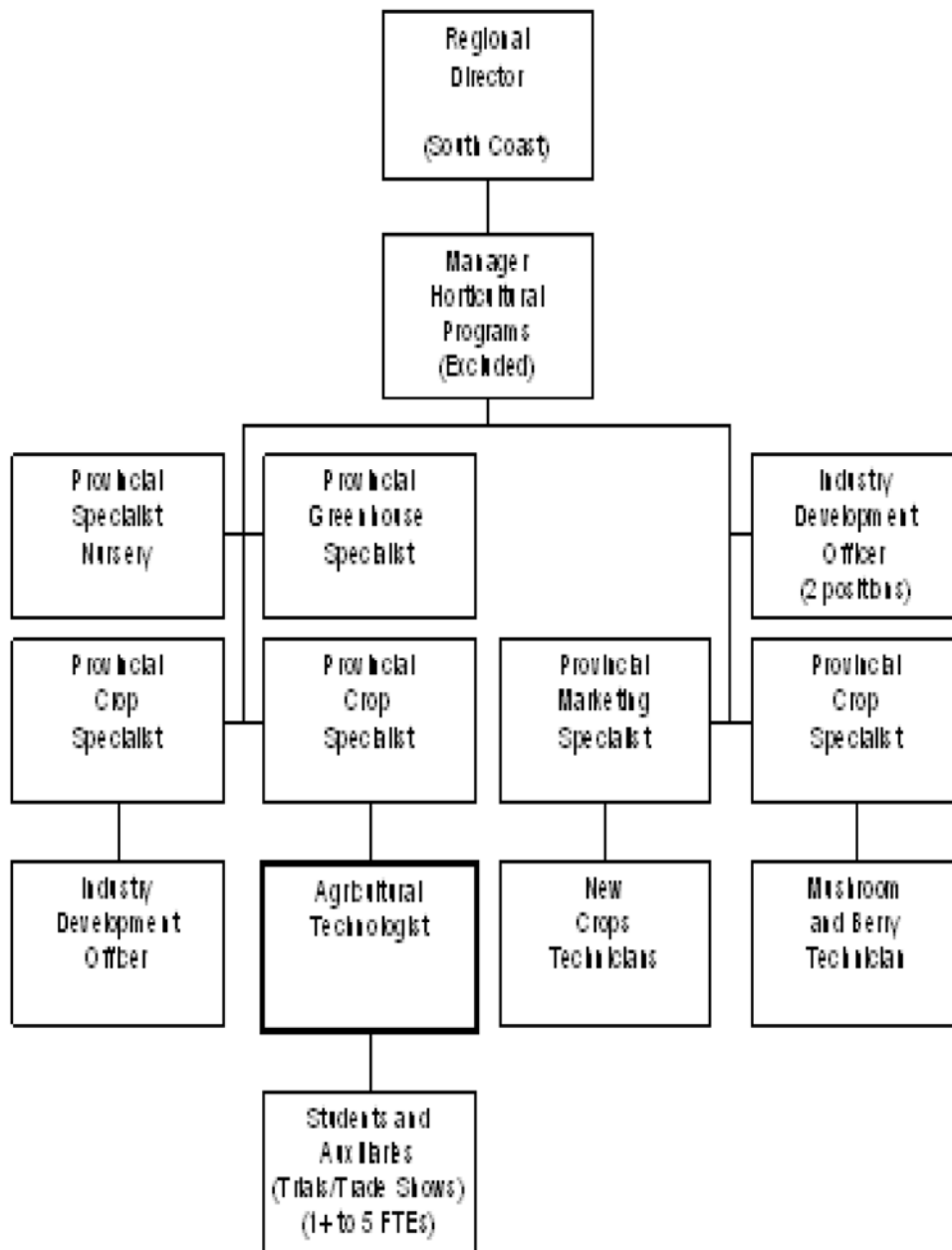
## PRIMARY FUNCTION

To provide technical support to the agricultural industry, coordinate on-site field trial programs for crops and to promote efficient production, handling and marketing of crops.

## JOB DUTIES AND TASKS

1. Operates and coordinates the experimental plots for all crop trials based on priorities and program requirements set by provincial crop specialists
  - a. monitors crops for weeds, insect and disease pests and determines appropriate control action
  - b. propagates and produces plants for research and trials
  - c. provides assistance with special projects and investigations
  - d. establishes and maintains experimental plots for all trials in accordance with facility policies, standards, principles and accepted horticultural practices
  - e. samples, tests and reviews target variables
  - f. collects and compiles raw data for experimental analysis by provincial specialists
  - g. designs, constructs, repairs and maintains equipment such as propagation beds and containers used to support trials to meet needs
  - h. orders and maintains stocks of all supplies and related equipment required for test plots.
2. Coordinates trade shows based on direction from industry specialists and industry associations
  - a. contacts participants, suppliers, sponsors, agencies to ensure all arrangements are made
  - b. prepares advertisements, programs, proceedings, floor plans, brochures, and related materials by hand or with a computer
  - c. books exhibitors, handles billing and fee collection, maintains financial records and related paperwork
  - d. organizes set-up, take down and clean up of trade show exhibits by coordinating and making arrangements for work crews and equipment required
  - e. negotiates contracts for services required at trade shows
  - f. reviews research reports, manuals and newsletters and related source information relating to agricultural production and management for inclusion into technological archive
3. Prepares extension materials and provides industry support services
  - a. reviews horticultural literature and compiles information for publications
  - b. collects and compiles cost production data
  - c. diagnoses insect, disease and other problems of crops and refers unusual problems to specialists

- d. makes recommendations to industry on approved production practices
- 4. Maintains an industry database on Agricultural crop information and surveys
- 5. Performs other related duties
  - a. obtains estimates for contract work and supplies and monitors project expenditures
  - b. provides industry with information on the requirements of legislation and policies
  - c. trains and provides direction to students or auxiliary workers working on trials
  - d. monitors budget expenditures and contracts and adds specific details to contracts
  - e. prepares soil plots, plants crops and harvests crops using a variety of agricultural equipment
  - f. ensures safe use of tools, farm equipment and pesticides



FACTOR	REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION	DEGREE	POINTS
1	<p><b>JOB KNOWLEDGE</b></p> <p>Understand the principles of agriculture research to set-up trials, promote efficient production, analyze and recommend crop testing requirements, and co-ordinate trade shows.</p>	G	250
2	<p><b>MENTAL DEMANDS</b></p> <p>Judgement to analyze and interpret technical crop requirements to ensure proper crop trials are conducted, determine trial sites, ensure proper data is gathered and complies with trials parameters.</p>	E	150
3	<p><b>INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS</b></p> <p>Persuasion required to use basic negotiation skills to reach agreement on contract terms for trade shows.</p>	D	45
4	<p><b>PHYSICAL COORDINATION AND DEXTERITY</b></p> <p>Significant coordination and dexterity required to operate a variety of mobile farm vehicles with multiple attachments to conduct cultivation and spraying of crops.</p>	D	22.5
5	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS</b></p> <p>Guided by agricultural field trial standards and procedures, applies accepted work methods in a different way to review designs and plans for testing and conducting trials of crops, determine compliance with project plans and industry standards, and to resolve crop related problems.</p>	E	120
6	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Significant financial responsibility to adapt standardized language to negotiate contracts for services required at trade shows.</p>	E	33

FACTOR	REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION	DEGREE	POINTS
7	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR PHYSICAL ASSETS/INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Significant responsibility to set up system to disseminate technical information to growers, industry and public.</p>	D	22.5
8	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Responsibility to assign, monitor and review work of auxiliary workers, students or volunteers at trade shows or during crop trials (up to 5 FTEs).</p>	CD	14
9	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR WELL BEING/SAFETY OF OTHERS</b></p> <p>Moderate care and attention to ensure workers, students or volunteers follow safety procedures when setting up and dismantling equipment at trade shows, or when dispersing pesticides and fertilizers on test plots.</p>	C	15
10	<p><b>SENSORY EFFORT/MULTIPLE DEMANDS</b></p> <p>Focused attention to detail to frequently read and assess crop and trial technical documents and plans.</p>	C	12
11	<p><b>PHYSICAL EFFORT</b></p> <p>Heavy physical effort to regularly lift heavy weights to load, unload or move supplies, change equipment attachments, lift and set up or dismantle equipment at trade shows.</p>	E	24
12	<p><b>SURROUNDINGS</b></p> <p>Exposure to all weather conditions frequently with shelter available when working in the experimental garden plots.</p>	C	6
13	<p><b>HAZARDS</b></p> <p>Moderate exposure to hazards from regularly working with or near hazardous materials, such as pesticides or from regularly pushing, pulling, lifting and carrying of heavy weights, such as seed bags, equipment, and attachments for tractors.</p>	C	6

Total Points: 720

Level: Range 21