

Guide for Innovative Farmers Researchers

A researcher is a critical member of a field lab, who helps the group design the on-farm trial to ensure that it is as scientifically rigorous as possible. They also provide guidance to the group on the topic to bring in previous research and avoid duplication.

All researchers agree to the following:

- A minimum 24 hours pro bono research time at the development stage of the field lab.
- Provide a short accessible summary of the background research evidence on the field lab topic for the group members*
- Assist with the codesign of the trial to ensure it is practical and scientifically rigorous.
- Maintain good communication with the coordinator and respond to queries as soon as possible
- Send us info for your profile and biography on the website
- Contribute to the group and field lab pages on the website (by providing updates to the coordinator)
- All research outcomes and IP belongs to the whole group and not the research organisation. A signed agreement may be required; any IP concerns must be agreed with the group
- Provide a detailed final report outlining the trial methodology and research findings for publication through the Innovative Farmers network, and open for dissemination to wider industry
- Please ensure that you have discussed with your line manager and / or finance team whether you have a charity-specific hourly rate and what this is at an early stage in the preparation for the field lab to avoid any delays.

* This should happen early on in the development stages of the field lab and be presented/discussed with the farmers/growers in initial meetings, to ensure that the group understands what research has already been and done and where it is lacking, so that this can inform their research question.

A research grant is available to be used on items and activities required to make the research happen, e.g. materials, hire of equipment, lab analysis and staff time for data collection, analysis and report writing. It is up to the group to decide on whether they would like to access the research fund, and if so, which items and activities are a priority for requesting funding. Groups can apply for up to £10,000 (with slight flexibility for larger groups) and the Innovative Farmers steering group will review this request.