

An introduction to conducting successful field trials

Cost-effectively train new technicians • Optimise experimental design for best results
Ensure best practice when conducting field trials

Designed for:

Field trials technicians either new to trials work or with less than 2 years' experience

Entry requirement:

An entry level course best suited to individuals who have a basic **awareness** of the subject area

Price:

£225 + VAT

Duration:

A one day classroom-based course

CPD points:

CPD points to be awarded

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- Know the basics of arable crops and their production cycle through the year
- Acquire basic crop husbandry skills and special requirements for trials work
- Follow trial protocols and understand their importance
- Plan and design field trials, including layout and analysis according to the needs of experiments
- Know which equipment is used for field trials
- Understand what is needed to prepare a site, including drilling and planting
- Apply treatments to trials, including overall application and individual plot treatments
- Conduct disease, pest and agronomic assessments
- Keep records, and understand systematic approaches for hard copy or electronic recording
- Apply techniques for harvest, including preparation, recording and sampling
- Handle post-harvest samples, and storage requirements
- Collate data and report

Content:

Classroom module 1 (half day) – Basic principles of field trials establishment:

- Main crop types
- Introduction to machinery
- Understanding protocols
- Trial design and layouts
- Preparation of drilling/planting plans
- Seed handling and preparations
- Seed bed cultivations
- Preparation of planting machinery
- Marking out
- Drilling/planting

Classroom module 2 (half day) – Practical aspects of field trials work:

- Crop growth stages
- Trial maintenance/husbandry (including protection from pests)
- Applications – products, methods and calibrations
- Disease and pest recording – identification and assessment
- Other agronomic recording
- Preparation for harvest – in the office and in the field
- Preparation of harvest equipment
- Harvesting trials – combinable crops and others
- Processing of samples and data
- Post-harvest operations

Trainer:

Hannah Parish, Head of Cambridge HQ Trials Delivery Team, NIAB TAG

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