

AGMARDT POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP REGULATIONS

Whereas

- (a) These Regulations shall be known as the AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowship Regulations.
- (b) In these Regulations:
 - (i) The Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust is referred to as “AGMARDT” or as the “Trust”.
 - (ii) The "Applicant" means the New Zealand University or Crown Research Institute (CRI) applying for a Fellowship through the potential Supervisor/Mentor.
 - (iii) The “Fellow” means the individual who will receive the Fellowship and undertake the associated research programme proposed in the Postdoctoral Fellowship application.
 - (iv) The AGMARDT “Advisory Panel” means the panel appointed by the Trust to advise it regarding the award of the Fellowships.

1. Purpose:

- 1.1 AGMARDT supports postdoctoral fellowship research to underpin the agricultural, pastoral, horticultural and forestry industries within New Zealand. This is to ensure that the research and training capabilities and capacity are maintained at the level needed to achieve and maintain New Zealand’s competitive advantage in international markets.

2. Number:

- 2.1 Up to three postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded to New Zealand Universities or CRIs annually.

3. Research Areas:

- 3.1 Fellowships are available to Universities and CRIs within New Zealand for research in line with AGMARDT’s purpose and as set out in these Regulations.
- 3.2 The AGMARDT Trustees will consider research applications in any field related to agriculture, pastoral, horticulture or forestry for each funding round where a significant capability or capacity short-fall has been identified.

4. Eligibility:

- 4.1 The Applicant must be from a New Zealand University or CRI. Preference will be given to proposed Fellows who are either New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. Candidates beginning their careers in science will be favoured.
- 4.2 The proposed Fellow must have either been awarded their PhD (or equivalent) or completed all requirements for the award. Where the award has not yet been conferred, the proposed Fellow must have received written notification from the appropriate authority advising that he/she has passed all written and oral examinations and is eligible to graduate.

- 4.3 In order to meet with the objectives of the Trust, funds must be applied to areas that promote and encourage New Zealand's interest in the agricultural, horticultural and forestry industries.

The Trust will need to be satisfied that the Fellow is likely to remain in New Zealand on completion of the Fellowship and be involved in the research area that is aligned with the proposed project. Therefore the opportunities for future employment for the Fellow with the University or CRI should be clearly stated in the application form.

5. Selection Criteria:

- 5.1 Fellowships under this programme will be selected on the basis of:

- Excellence and relevance of the proposed project in terms of the research area;
- The academic and research record of the University or CRI Supervisor;
- Excellence of the University or CRI Team in the proposed area of research;
- Logistical and intellectual support offered by the University or CRI;
- Scope for intellectual and professional development of the individual researcher;
- Leadership potential of the Fellow ;
- Intention for the Fellow to be employed by the University or CRI in New Zealand on completion of the Fellowship;
- How the project will meet a recognised capability or capacity short-fall;
- The track-record of the institution in using AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowships;
- The Curriculum Vitae of the proposed Fellow and suitability to undertake the research programme proposed.
- Candidates beginning their careers in science will be favoured.

University applications with strong linkages to CRIs will be favoured.

6. Tenure:

- 6.1 The Fellowship must commence within one year of the date the grant is confirmed otherwise the Fellowship can be withdrawn.
- 6.2 The Fellowship shall be for an agreed period of two or three years from the date on which the Fellow embarks upon the project. An extension for a third year will be subject to approval by the AGMARDT Trustees (in their sole and absolute discretion) and the availability of funding to the Trust. In making their decision the Trustees will, amongst any other criteria which the Trustees consider to be relevant, consider whether satisfactory progress has been made over the first two years of the Fellowship.
- 6.3 The Fellow shall work full-time on the project during the tenure of the Fellowship.
- 6.4 The Fellowship shall not be tenable with other Fellowships, except with the written agreement of the Trust.

7. Fellowship Payments:

- 7.1 The Fellowship will be made by way of an Agreement between the University or CRI, the Fellow and AGMARDT, which will supersede these Regulations. The University or CRI will contract separately with the Fellow. The University or CRI's normal

conditions of work and use of facilities shall apply to the Fellow and work not contained in the agreed project outside the University or CRI is not permitted.

- 7.2 AGMARDT will provide a grant of up to \$190,000 (GST inclusive) to the University or CRI for a two-year Fellowship, or \$285,000 (GST inclusive) for a three year Fellowship by means specified in the Agreement. This will include a contribution towards direct costs of up to \$30,000 (GST inclusive) per annum and allow the University or CRI to pay a stipend of \$65,000 per annum to the Fellow (this sum does not attract GST). The Fellow is liable to pay income tax on the stipend if not employed by the University or CRI. However where the Fellow is employed by the University or CRI, PAYE must be deducted from the stipend. The University or CRI may top up the Fellowship stipend.
- 7.3 Payment will be withheld if the six-monthly progress reports are not submitted on time. The final payment will be withheld pending receipt and approval of the final report.

8. Reporting, Dissemination and Acknowledgement:

- 8.1 The University or CRI shall provide six-monthly progress reports to AGMARDT describing in a minimum of two pages the progress of the project, objectives achieved, results obtained and problems encountered. The University or CRI shall submit a final report to AGMARDT on results of the project, as well as copies of any papers or publications produced in the course of the Fellowship. A highly technical report is acceptable but it must be accompanied by a summary that will be understandable to a layperson.
- 8.2 Unless otherwise agreed to by the Trust and Applicant, it is a condition of the Fellowship that the University or CRI must make available to other researchers, industry groups and farmers/growers, the findings of any research undertaken in New Zealand or overseas as a result of the Fellowship.
- 8.3 AGMARDT must be acknowledged in all publications, presentations and other forums based on work funded by the AGMARDT Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme.

9. Intellectual Property Rights:

- 9.1 AGMARDT shall make no claim to ownership and/or control of any Intellectual Property Rights arising from, or in association with, the project. However, AGMARDT does requires to be informed of the intellectual property arising from its investments in research on a confidential basis and how such projects are being developed for the benefit of the New Zealand agribusiness.

10. Suspension or Termination:

- 10.1 The Trust may suspend or terminate a Fellowship if, in its opinion, the University or CRI is not diligently pursuing the project or is not complying with the terms and conditions of the Agreement. Under these circumstances, the University or CRI may be required to reimburse the Trust for funds expended. Termination may occur in certain other circumstances, as set out in the Agreement.

11. Liability



THE AGRICULTURAL AND MARKETING
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

11.1 The only obligation of the Trust is to provide the funding on the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

12. **Disclaimer**

12.1 AGMARDT accepts no liability or responsibility for the manner in which work in connection with the Fellowship is undertaken.

13. **Applications:**

13.1 Applicants must apply for a Fellowship using the **online Postdoctoral Fellowship form** available on the AGMARDT website.

13.2 A complete application comprises the AGMARDT application form signed by the Applicant and the proposed Fellow's Curriculum Vitae (which must include the names of two referees who could be approached by AGMARDT). This needs to be submitted **online** to AGMARDT by 5.00 pm on the last business day of August of each year.

Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that the two referees nominated to critique the proposal forward their reports directly to AGMARDT by the date given in the application; post or email (info@agmardt.org.nz) will be accepted.

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Addresses for the delivery of Referee's comments:

The address for postal delivery is:

General Manager
AGMARDT
PO Box 472
Feilding, 4740, New Zealand

The courier address is:

General Manager
AGMARDT
Level 1
8 Weld Street
Feilding, New Zealand