

Cereal Quality Lead

In person / Ickleton, near Cambridge/Saffron Walden (UK)

Deadline for applications: 20th May 2026

Please quote reference: CQL-RAGT2026

We are offering a global leadership role focused on defining and delivering the strategy for end-use quality in cereal breeding, ensuring that wheat and barley varieties meet the needs of millers, brewers, and other end users. The role leads the Cereal Analytical Laboratory in the UK and provides oversight of global quality testing operations across multiple sites and partners. It combines strategic planning with hands-on technical leadership, ensuring high-quality, consistent, and timely analytical data to support breeding decisions. Working closely with global breeding, product development, commercial, and research teams, the role drives innovation in analytical methods, supports the development of genomic selection tools, and builds strong external collaborations to advance cereal quality outcomes worldwide.



Your main responsibilities

- Develop and implement end-use quality strategies with Cereal Breeding Leads
- Lead and coordinate global testing operations across internal labs and external partners
- Manage and develop the UK Cereal Analytics team, ensuring high performance and delivery
- Align testing priorities, timelines, and requirements with global breeding programmes
- Plan and allocate resources strategically to meet current and future testing demands
- Ensure high-quality, timely testing, with accurate data validation, analysis, and reporting
- Partner with breeding, statistical and trait discovery teams to support the development of high-throughput solutions for quality trait selection.
- Manage laboratory operations, including equipment, maintenance, and new technology evaluation
- Control departmental budgets and drive cost-effective operations
- Collaborate across breeding, commercial, and research teams to support innovation and market-aligned outcomes



Your main skills

- High level of knowledge in cereal analytical techniques with practical experience
- Leading teams and projects
- Understanding of plant breeding and modern technologies in plant breeding
- Working in an agricultural or food environment
- Degree in a relevant subject. A minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role or a suitable post-graduate qualification.
- Experience with NIR grain testing machines would be an advantage
- Good level of communication whilst working individually and in a team
- Organised approach to work, with efficient time management and flexibility
- Attention to detail and good record-keeping skills
- Knows safety standards for own area of work, follows prescribed procedures and works in a safe manner. Encourages a culture of health and safety.



What we offer you

- Full time permanent position (37h/week)
- Competitive salary
- Incentive scheme
- Generous company pension
- Private healthcare
- Minimum 25 days annual leave
- Active Employee Training Program for professional development
- Employee assistance programme



About RAGT

RAGT is a French breeding company based in Rodez near Toulouse with a breeding and research site, and successful commercial business in the UK.

The company has a multi-crop portfolio and leading position in cereal varieties in the European market.

RAGT are European leaders in cereals and protein rich species, varietal innovation is at the heart of our business to support and develop sustainability in agriculture.

INTERESTED?

+ Please send your CV and covering letter to: Business Administration manager, RAGT Seeds Ltd, Grange Road, Ickleton, CB10 1TA

TO APPLY:

+ Or by email to: anna.mconnell@ragt.com

+ For any queries, please call: 01799 533707