

Agronomist/ Molecular Geneticist

Thomas is an agronomist/molecular geneticist who is working on finding smarter ways to grow food that doesn't harm the planet. Thomas combines cutting-edge science with farming practices to help create a future where everyone has enough to eat.

futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/thomas

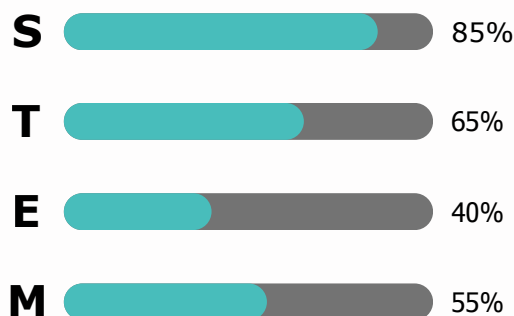


*"I help secure
nutritious food for
people everywhere."*



STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?



Source: jobsandskills.gov.au

5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1 Solve problems with creative thinking.
- 2 Work outdoors in nature.
- 3 Travel the world to share knowledge.
- 4 Work with passionate farmers.
- 5 Shape the future through innovation.

3 STEM skills required for this job

Biology

Critical thinking

Data analysis

Subjects to develop these skills

Science

Science, Mathematics, Digital
Technology

Science, Mathematics

An example of a day in the life of an agronomist/molecular geneticist

- 4.00am** It's a super early start for me today, but I don't mind. I'm hitting the road to visit some of the farmers I work with to collect samples to check how the latest crops are going.
- 6.00am** I arrive at the farm, but the farmer has already been up and working for hours! I'm just in time to hitch a ride on the tractor to gather some samples of the crops I've been doing some cutting-edge research into. The farmer and I have made some changes to how these crops are grown, and I'm hoping that the samples I collect today will show that the changes are working.
- 9.15am** I've got all my samples, and it looks like things are going well. I won't know for sure until I get back to my lab, so I hit the road again and head into my other workplace. During the drive, I listen to audio recordings of what other people are doing in this space to create more sustainable food solutions. I love hearing all the innovation and passion. It keeps me inspired and focused during these long hours on the road.
- Midday** I'm back, just in time to join the team for lunch. We meet in the cafeteria most days. Some bring their lunch, some buy it. Today I buy mine, I was up really early and didn't make anything before I left. The team and I chat about the samples I've collected, and what we hope they will tell us.
- 1.00pm** I'm in the lab with my soil and produce samples. These samples were collected from crops that I designed and have been conducting field experiments on. I'm hoping the samples will tell me a positive story. It won't be a quick story. It will take a few weeks to get the full story these samples have to tell.
- 2.30pm** While my samples undergo analysis, I dive into another part of my work. Understanding plant DNA. Better understanding about plant DNA will help me to find solutions to some of the biggest problems facing humankind at the moment - food security!
- 4.00pm** I pack up and say goodbye to the team. I had an early morning, and tomorrow I look forward to sleeping in.
- 5.00pm** I get home and can hear laughter and joy. My family is in the kitchen making dinner, it's one of my favourites. I join them and share some of my wins for the day. We always share our top three moments of the day, and one of our least favourite. My least favourite moment today was when I spilled my coffee before I even got in the car this morning. It went everywhere.
- 9.00pm** Time for bed. I hope to dream about something other than work! I love my job, but tonight I want to dream about flying.