

NVT Resource Sharing

Key requirements and request form

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1. Introduction

GRDC has developed these key requirements as the framework to enable third party researchers to access resources generated within the NVT program in a safe, secure, and authorised manner.

The National Variety Trials (**NVT**) program is the largest independent co-ordinated trial network in the world, and the resources generated within the program is of significant value to Australian grain growers. Enabling third-party researchers' access to the NVT resources will further help GRDC deliver on its purpose to *Invest in Research, Development & Extension to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers*.

The benefits of enabling third party access to NVT resources include the following:

- Extracting greater value for the grains industry from GRDC's investment in NVT through improved data utilisation, and through value-adding research, development, and commercial activities;
- Improving the outcomes of non-NVT GRDC investments by leveraging the NVT datasets;
- Protecting the credibility, independence, and accuracy of NVT data and trial results;
- Protecting the confidentiality of unreleased and/or restricted NVT intellectual property (IP);
- Protecting the integrity of the physical NVT trials;
- Ensuring GRDC and NVT are acknowledged and credited for supply of data or resources where appropriate.

2. NVT Resources

Third-party persons or organisations (**Recipient**) who request access to NVT resources will be required to agree to terms and conditions that govern the access arrangements to NVT Resources. A Recipient must comply with the contractual terms and conditions, or risk access being removed. The “**NVT Resources**” comprise the following:

2.1. The NVT dataset, including:

- 2.1.1. Publicly available NVT data in a bulk format that cannot otherwise be accessed or retrieved via the NVT website (www.nvt.grdc.com.au) to any Recipient.
- 2.1.2. Non-publicly available NVT data, or data otherwise restricted for use (i.e. confidential data and/or information on unreleased cultivars, and/or unreleased trials, and/or trial data owned by GRDC that is not normally accessible, such as NVT Pathology screening data, plot level data etc).
- 2.1.3. Supply of site characterisation data including climatic, spatial, visual, and any other data collected as part of the NVT program.

2.2. The NVT trial sites, including:

- 2.2.1. The gathering of visual and/or physiological scores, measurements, and data from NVT plots.
 - 2.2.1.1. This includes all traits including, but not limited to, flowering notes, growth habit, disease resistance, maturity, or any other data recording of cultivar traits including digital data capture (UAV imagery, NDVI, infrared, etc).
- 2.2.2. Plant tissue sampling from an NVT trial.
- 2.2.3. Soil sampling from within NVT trial sites.
- 2.2.4. Gathering of climatic, spatial, historical, or geographical data of a NVT trial site.

2.3. NVT post-harvest grain samples

3. Requirements

3.1. General requirements

- 3.1.1. Requests to access NVT Resources must be capable of meeting the requirements in this document or access will not be granted.
- 3.1.2. A comprehensive brief must be provided for approval by GRDC, outlining (see Attachment 1: Recipient Request Form):
 - 3.1.2.1. The purpose and outcomes of the research and methodology used;
 - 3.1.2.2. The level of access required;
 - 3.1.2.3. Any protocols/methods of sampling used.
- 3.1.3. GRDC will review the Recipient Request Form and determine the most appropriate contracting arrangement under which access to the requested NVT Resources will be granted.
- 3.1.4. GRDC's general position is that it will provide an *NVT Resource Sharing Agreement* to the Recipient which must be signed by the Recipient before access to NVT Resources is granted. The *NVT Resource Sharing Agreement* will, among other things, provide for the grant of licence and other access rights to allow the Recipient to use NVT Resources for the agreed research. Details in this section 3 ‘Requirements’ will be reflected as terms and conditions in the *NVT Resource Sharing Agreement*. GRDC reserves the right to propose different or additional terms and conditions under which access to the requested NVT Resources will be granted.
- 3.1.5. GRDC (and, specifically, the NVT program) is to be attributed with the provision of the NVT Resources in any resulting publications (journal articles, conference proceedings, fact sheets, etc.).

- 3.1.5.1. For journal articles the attribution must include the following wording: *“This research was enabled by GRDC through the provision of (data/trials/grain [whichever applies]) resources generated as part of the NVT program.”*
- 3.1.5.2. For all other uses (presentations, fact sheets, posters etc) the same attribution outlined in 3.1.5.1 must be used, in addition to the inclusion of the NVT logo (<https://grdc.com.au/brand#nvt>).
- 3.1.6. Copies of intended publications must be provided to GRDC for review and approval before being published.
- 3.1.7. GRDC reserves the right to report on the research findings to the broader farming community, and the findings/reports may be presented on the GRDC and/or NVT website once published.
- 3.1.8. Pre-breeding related research outcomes utilising NVT Resources are to be made available to all Australian plant breeding programs participating in the NVT program on an equitable basis unless otherwise approved by GRDC.
- 3.1.9. NVT Resource access will not be granted for any research that would be used for ranking of varieties or for research that would duplicate the approach already conducted by the NVT.

3.2. Data access requirements

- 3.2.1. Data must not be edited, manipulated, or presented in a way that could be construed as misleading or biased or would otherwise detract from the value and reliability of the data.
- 3.2.2. GRDC may provide data on un-released lines in a “deidentified” format.
- 3.2.3. Any cultivars that are un-released at the initial time of accessing the NVT Resource must be de-identified in any and all resulting publications.
- 3.2.4. NVT data may be retracted by GRDC at any time and, where appropriate, Recipients must discard retracted data upon request.
- 3.2.5. Data must not be shared or passed on to any person not disclosed in the Recipient Request Form (Attachment 1) unless written approval is sought by the Recipient and granted by the NVT Manager.
- 3.2.6. Data cannot be used to publish information that may be deemed contradictory to NVT and the results and information that NVT publishes.

3.3. Trial site access requirements

- 3.3.1. Plant, soil, pathogen, or any other sample taken from within NVT trials must not compromise the NVT program objectives in any way, and a Recipient must have:
 - 3.3.1.1. Strict replicated sampling protocols approved by the NVT Manager to:
 - 3.3.1.1.1. Prevent bias or uneven impact on varieties.
 - 3.3.1.1.2. Ensure sampling is done in a manner that impacts all plots within an entire replicate evenly and in a non-biased manner.
 - 3.3.1.1.3. Minimise damage to plots.
 - 3.3.1.2. Acknowledgement that NVT Trial Service Providers reserve the right to conduct sampling on behalf of the Recipient and charge the Recipient a Service Fee to do so.
- 3.3.2. All measurements (including visual imaging) collected from the trials must be shared with GRDC if requested.
- 3.3.3. Site visits must be conducted in accordance with the site access requirements stipulated in the NVT Protocols.

- 3.3.4. A Recipient must notify the nominated Trial Service Provider AND the nominated grower/co-operator/landowner PRIOR to visiting a trial site or entering private property. Verbal or written permission from the Trial Service Provider and relevant grower/co-operator/landowner must be granted/acknowledged before the site visit can occur.
- 3.3.5. Utmost care and effort must be taken to ensure damage to plots and surrounding crop is avoided. Recipient personnel must not walk within plots. Movements within the trial must be limited to trial pathways and inter-plot/row spaces.

3.4. Grain access requirements

- 3.4.1. All requests for post-harvest grain samples must be submitted to GRDC by the following dates:
 - Winter Crops: (Wheat, Barley, Canola, Chickpea, Field Pea, Faba Bean, Lentil, Lupin, Oat)
 - **July 31st** each year (researchers)
 - **August 31st** each year (breeder requests eligible for the expedited pathway)
 - Summer Crops: (Sorghum)
 - December 31 - All regions except Central Qld:
 - March 31 – Central Qld
- 3.4.1.1. An NVT Post-Harvest Grain Sample Request Form (see Attachment 2) must be issued by the Recipient to GRDC, in addition to the Resource Request Form.
- 3.4.2. Research in relation to grain that involves any of the following activities is prohibited:
 - 3.4.2.1. Breeding activities, including “selfing” or crossing of the seed.
 - 3.4.2.2. Genotyping of the cultivars/varieties.
- 3.4.3. Any requests for grain of pre-commercial cultivars, and all hybrid cultivars, will require approval by the participating NVT Breeder that owns the variety.
 - 3.4.3.1. A detailed brief outlining the project, its purpose, methodology, data use etc must be provided for approval by the Breeder (see Attachment 1).
 - 3.4.3.2. Approval will be granted or denied by the following dates:
 - Winter Crops: (Wheat, Barley, Canola, Chickpea, Field Pea, Faba Bean, Lentil, Lupin, Oat)
 - October 30th.
 - Summer Crops: (Sorghum)
 - February 28th - All regions except Central Qld.
 - May 30th - Central Qld.
- 3.4.4. Accessing NVT harvested grain samples requires sampling and logistical effort by NVT Trial Service Providers that they are not contracted to provide. Trial Service Providers are not obliged to meet these requests as doing so can introduce logistical and resourcing complications in the critical harvest period. However, Trial Service Providers may choose to meet grain samples requests, in accordance with the following terms:
 - 3.4.4.1. The request has been approved by the NVT Manager and an *NVT Resource Sharing Agreement* has been executed by the Recipient.
 - 3.4.4.2. Trial Service Providers retain the right to decline harvest grain sample requests (see also clause 3.4.4.4).
 - 3.4.4.3. Trial Service Providers retain the right to charge the Recipient reasonable sampling, labour, and freight costs to cover the costs and effort required to source and supply the grain sample/s. This must be agreed to prior to the sample being provided. Pricing negotiations should not begin until sample request approval has been granted by the NVT Manager.

- 3.4.4.4. Samples can only be provided once a Trial Service Provider has met all other NVT contractual obligations. This includes retaining enough seed for grain quality analysis, retention sample provisions, etc, in accordance with the NVT Protocols.
- 3.4.4.5. Participating Breeders retain first right (subject to availability) to be provided with samples of commercial lines. Participating Breeders also retain the right (in accordance with their NVT contractual obligations and the NVT Protocols) to request grain samples of their own nominated “unreleased” cultivars.
- 3.4.4.6. GRDC retains the right to prioritise NVT grain sample requests and cancel previously-approved requests if there is insufficient grain following harvest. If GRDC prioritisation is not required, sample requests may be processed by a Trial Service Provider in the order that they are received.
- 3.4.4.7. All sample shipments must be accompanied by a completed and signed NVT Chain of Custody Form and returned to the sender once the shipment has been received.
- 3.4.4.8. GRDC or the Trial Service Provider cannot guarantee the quality and/or integrity of post-harvest grain samples. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the variety IDs are correct, and the purity and cleanliness is acceptable, third-party sampling activities are not covered within the NVT Protocols or other NVT contractual obligations. GRDC is unable to warrant the quality and integrity of grain samples provided.

4. Target audience

- 4.1. The primary target audiences are third-party researchers aiming to value-add to the NVT program or wider Australian grains industry by utilising the NVT Resources available. This may include researchers associated with other GRDC investments, or non-GRDC researchers acting for the benefit of Australian grain growers.
- 4.2. Other target audiences may include a person, business, or organisations with a demonstrated value-adding proposition. These may be knowledge or commercial based propositions.
- 4.3. GRDC retains the right to decline any requests at any stage and to cancel previously-approved requests. GRDC reserves the right to contract on any terms and conditions that it sees fit.

Attachment 1: Resource request form

Return completed forms to nvt@grdc.com.au

Section 1: Contact details

Name:	
Company:	
Email:	
Phone number:	
Affiliated personnel that will have access to the NVT resource:	
Signature of affiliated personnel (digital accepted):	

Section 2: Breeder eligibility and declaration

Breeders have an expedited pathway for sourcing NVT harvested grain under certain conditions below (please tick all applicable boxes)

☐ Breeder has a current NVT Participation Agreement, and requested NVT Results or grain samples are:

- ☐ Either Commercial Cultivars or Pre-commercial cultivars where the Breeder is the Owner.
- ☐ From trials series where the Breeder has been participating
- ☐ From trial locations where the Breeder has been participating.

If all the above 4 boxes are ticked, the Breeder can use the expedited pathway for harvested grain requests. Breeders must complete the NVT post-harvest grain sample template and submit it as an Excel file along with this form. NVT data covered by the above points can be accessed through a breeder data license agreement.

All other Researchers continue onto Section 3.

Section 3: Research purpose (for non-breeders)

Project title

Outline why the NVT resources are important/necessary for your research, i.e. why can't other resources be used?

Outline the purpose and desired outcome/s of the research and how the outcomes would benefit Australian grain growers.

Outline the methodology used to achieve the outcome/s.

What data or resource is required?

Please provide details of crop, state, region, location, data type, cultivar/s or any other information to assist in providing the resource. For post-harvest grain sample requests please fill out the NVT post-harvest grain sample template and submit it as an Excel file along with this form.

What are the sampling protocols that will be used?

Applicable to field trial access and soil or plant tissue sampling.