R&D Specialist (Product Optimisation)

The Research and Development (R&D) role involves investigative activities to develop new products, procedures, and technologies to reshape the future of agricultural practices. It also involves research activities to continually improve existing products by identifying improved cultivation procedures. Research activities cover developing growing techniques, technology and gathering market insights to ensure the Sustenir Ecosystem stays relevant in the short, medium, and long-term. This involves leading technology changes that impacts the whole network of Sustenir Farms, and the global industry.

Job Description:
The R&D Specialist will be responsible for assisting the R&D Manager in leading and conducting activities to identify and solve complex technical problems through groundbreaking research.

The role requires but is not limited to:
- Planning, conducting and documentation of experiments including data collection, analysis, and presentation of results for an audience within the department or wider group, including other departments and external-facing output such as conference papers and blog posts
- Evaluate technology through activities such as programme trials, lab tests and user tests to determine its suitability and effectiveness in boosting yields and preferential plant traits
- Produce and test prototype implementations of systems and new technology to help produce sustainable yields and increase productivity
- Further optimise existing procedures to achieve increased yields, including and not limited to tweaking nutrient, light and other CEA conditions.
- Identify and follow up opportunities for learning and development to ensure skill set meets evolving requirements and stay at the forefront of relevant scientific and technology areas
- Represent the company at events such as exhibitions and demonstrations to explain their work and help with recruitment
- Gain cooperation with third parties including external contacts, and negotiate agreements to advance R&D projects

Key skills required:
- Good understanding of plant nutrients, chemicals, and their interactions
- Laboratory techniques and safe chemical handling knowledge
- Plant cultivation knowledge
- Good communication skills and able to work well in a fast-paced environment
- Detail oriented and analytical
- Creative — adventurous, able propose sound and innovative solutions to technical problems
- Ability to analyse and communicate quantitative insights in a precise actionable manner

Relevant experience:
- Minimum BS — any science-based field (but those with relevant fields will be preferred)
  - Crop Science, Agriculture, Biotechnology etc
- Minimum 2–3 years working experience preferred but not mandatory
- Experience in planning and running experiments
- A good attitude — willing to learn, do necessary leg work within and sometimes with other departments and agencies