

SMARTER IRRIGATION FOR PROFIT

Smart Automated Irrigation

Aim of the Project

The aim of this project is the delivery of smart automated precision irrigation systems for whole of farm scale use. The systems will be tested and validated at the field scale, and demonstrated to growers and potential commercial providers to encourage future industry adoption.

Methodology

The project involves significant development, evaluation, field testing and engagement of potential commercial partners. Field level testing will be implemented at one centre pivot irrigated pasture site in Tasmania, one furrow irrigated cotton field near Wee Waa, NSW, one lateral move cotton site in Dalby, Queensland and one furrow irrigated sugar site in the Burdekin, Queensland. Sites will be monitored to assess both the volumetric irrigation performance and crop yields as well as technical challenges and economic cost benefit. This will assist growers and commercial providers assess the merits of adopting smart automated irrigation systems. Research partners include the CSIRO and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.

The expected outcomes are:

- Automated adaptive precision irrigation management systems suitable for Australian Cotton, Dairy and Sugarcane industries.
- 10-20 percent improvement in water productivity, efficiency and farmer profitability.
- Adoption of new irrigation technologies and science application by farmers and irrigation professionals to improve farm profits.
- Improved cross sector industry research collaboration with public and private sectors.



Smart automated irrigation – Dairy



Precision overhead irrigation systems – Cotton



Irrigation research - Sugar

For further information or project progress updates, contact:

Joseph Foley, Project Leader T: 07 4631 1559 E: Joseph.Foley@usq.edu.au

The project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural Research and Development for Profit Programme, and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Sugar Research Australia, Dairy Australia, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and The University of Southern Queensland.

