SMARTER IRRIGATION FOR PROFIT

Smarter Irrigation for Profit is a partnership between the major irrigation industries of cotton, dairy, rice and sugar. It will target 3000 irrigators to improve their individual enterprise profit by $20,000-40,000 per annum. The project has 10 key activities, four industries, 16 R&D partners, and 19 farmer managed learning sites across five states.

The dairy industry is the second largest user of irrigation water in Australia. Increasing cost and availability of water is a major concern for Australian dairy farmers and there is a pressing need for the industry to find and adopt innovative practises and technologies to utilise water as efficiently as possible.

Optimised Dairy Irrigation Farms

Managed by Dairy Australia this project will see the establishment of a network of farmer managed learning sites located in major dairy regions referred to as "optimised irrigation" farms.

Dairy Australia will establish "optimised irrigation" demonstration sites on commercial dairy farms in WA, SA, Victoria, NSW and Queensland. Each site has the opportunity to tailor the technologies demonstrated base on local needs but each of the sites will quantify the expected water, energy and labour savings associated with adoption of innovative irrigation technologies over two irrigation seasons, as well as the associated management and skills requirements, maintenance costs and labour and lifestyle implications.

The expected outcomes are:

- 10-20% improvement in water productivity, efficiency and farmer profitability, or $20,000 - $40,000/farm/year.
- Adoption of new irrigation technologies and science application by farmers and irrigation professionals to improve farm profits.
- Web based information resources detailing cost benefit analysis of different precision irrigation technology options for both gravity fed and pressurised dairy irrigation systems across Australia.
- Integrated industry agreed irrigation scheduling design and management guidelines for pressurised and gravity fed irrigation.

Improved scheduling of surface irrigation.

Precision control of irrigation systems.

For further information or project progress updates, contact:
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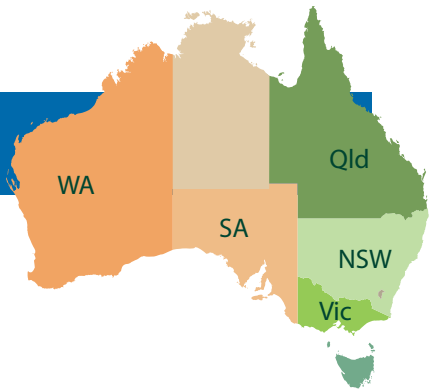
The project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural Research and Development for Profit Programme, and Dairy Australia.



Rural Research and Development for Profit
Keeping Australian farmers at the cutting edge

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Dairy Australia
Your Levy at Work