

SMARTER IRRIGATION FOR PROFIT



Maximising Irrigation Profitability

Aim of the project

To develop sustainable broadacre irrigation systems that increase the profitability and flexibility of farming systems in the southern Murray Darling Basin.

The project will:

1. Assess the ability of precision irrigation to apply defined irrigation depths on time and determine its potential to reduce deep drainage and waterlogging risk, and increase nutrient and water productivity; and
2. Develop irrigation design criteria to allow precision irrigation to occur on basin irrigation layouts.

The methodology provides three key areas of focus within the project:

Agromony; the influence of irrigation layout and management on input efficiencies, particularly nitrogen and subsequent impact on water productivity and system profitability.

Hydrology; to gather information on the impact of factors such as slope, bay surface roughness and soil type on water infiltration, and then validate these factors to develop the irrigation layout design criteria.

Communication/adoption; utilisation of grower groups to ensure project activities are meeting grower needs, local demonstration of activities, collection of relevant data.

2015/16 Activities

Benchmarking of commercial layout performance

Establishment of key grower learning sites

Project partners

Murray and Riverina LLS

Rice Extension

CottonInfo



IREC, Whitton – Back to back cotton:

What is the effect of reduced deficit irrigation on NUE and WUE in southern irrigated cotton?



SG, Jerilderie – Intensive double cropping in a rice rotation:

Is continuous double cropping a possible alternative to increase productivity and profitability of the rice farming system?

What are soil and nutrient constraints to winter crop production following rice?

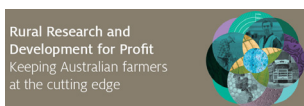


ICC, Numurkah – Automated surface irrigation:

What is the influence of N management and reduced deficit irrigation on NUE and WUE on alternate summer crops?

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The project is supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit Programme and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.



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