

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 November 2025



MASTERCLASS ON IMPROVING IRRIGATION FOR RIVERINA HORTICULTURE GROWERS

IREC is pleased to announce that we were successful in the ***Climate-Smart Agriculture Program: Small Grants Round 1*** funding call from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The project is titled *Improving irrigation management via demonstrations, training and use of technology for horticulture farmers to better manage their natural capital and increase their knowledge and skills* or ***Horticulture Masterclass*** for short.

IREC Chairman Matthew Toscan said the *Horticulture Masterclass* will support citrus, olive, almond and winegrape growers in the Southern NSW region.

“The project will include the establishment of two local on-farm demonstration sites with cutting edge technology and teaching aids as well as a series of training workshops looking at soils, irrigation systems, and soil moisture monitoring and irrigation scheduling tools”.

“This is all with the aim of improving participants understanding and management of their natural soil and water capital”.

“The workshops will improve growers’ skills and knowledge in managing water through the increased and better use of soil moisture monitoring and irrigation technology” he said.

Workshops will be run across the region in 2026, with workshops planned for Hillston, Griffith and Leeton.

IREC Executive Officer Iva Quarisa said this project aims to assist farmers and land holders to adopt climate-smart, sustainable agriculture best practices, as well as facilitate and implement practice change.

The Irrigation Research and Extension Committee (IREC) has been bringing irrigators, researchers, industry, agencies and agribusiness together since 1939 by facilitating cross-industry collaboration and cooperation between all those connected with irrigated agriculture in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

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