

IREC UPDATE



Despite a promising start, the mungbeans at the IREC Field Station failed to deliver. To find out more, see page 26.

WANTED! Sediment from your dam

Deakin University needs access to farm dams and water storages in the MIA, as part of a new AgriFutures project 'Quantifying the greenhouse gas emission and carbon co-benefits of on-farm irrigation dams'. A preliminary study found 50% of dams absorbed CO₂ from the atmosphere, which is promising for emission offsets.

Researchers need access to 50 dams on cotton, rice and grape farms to sample underwater sediment, adjacent soil and water for greenhouse gases; as well as monitor riparian vegetation. Contact Dr Jackie Webb: 0417 634 434 or j.webb@deakin.edu.au

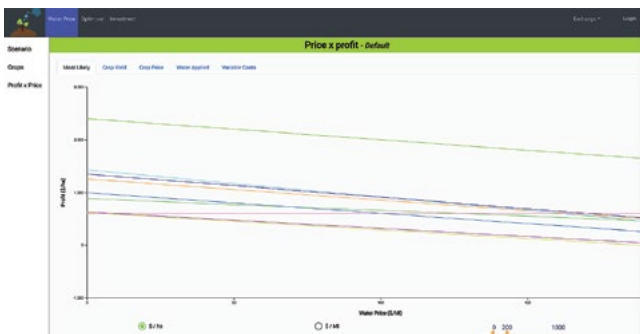


Dr Jackie Webb taking a gas sample from a floating chamber that measures greenhouse gas flux. Photo: Rakesh Awale

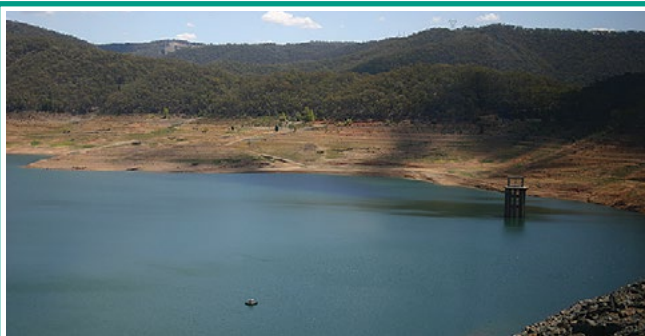
New water profitability calculator

WaterCanProfit, developed by the GRDC-funded **Optimising Grains Initiative**, will help grain growers maximise profitability of irrigation water. It has 3 components.

1. **Water Price** provides a rapid appraisal of relative crop profitability as water price changes (see [video demo](#)).
2. **Optimiser** helps determine the most profitable crop areas and irrigation rates across the whole farm (see [video demo](#)).
3. **Investment Analysis** compares investments in irrigation infrastructure, machinery and equipment (see [video demo](#)). We would love your feedback, so please [take a look](#).



WaterCanProfit tool shows profitability of various crops at different water prices.



Dam levels and water availability is likely to be heavily impacted due to increased droughts.

Preparing for future droughts

IREC is very pleased to be a partner of the newly established **Southern NSW Drought & Innovation Hub**. IREC is one of 7 Farming Systems Groups in a consortium of partners.

The hub aims to assist primary producers, and rural and regional communities, prepare for and increase resilience to future droughts. Through the hub, IREC will apply for funding for projects to increase extension and adoption of drought preparedness technology and techniques.

Learn more: [Southern NSW Drought & Innovation Hub](#)

Cool maize growers needed

IREC has joined the **Cool Soil Initiative** and needs 15 maize growers to be part of the program. Growers will get up to 5 soil tests per farm, pre-plant, in maize paddocks. And an opportunity to improve soil carbon levels and access a range of soils knowledge.

The Cool Soils Initiative is funded by Mars Petcare, Kellogg's, Manildra Group and Allied Pinnacle. Read about the Cool Soils Initiative on page 22 or [learn more](#) about Kellogg's involvement in this great project.

Contact Iva iva@irec.org.au or 04020 069 643 to be involved.



The Cool Soil Initiative focuses on maize this summer. Photo: Damian Jones