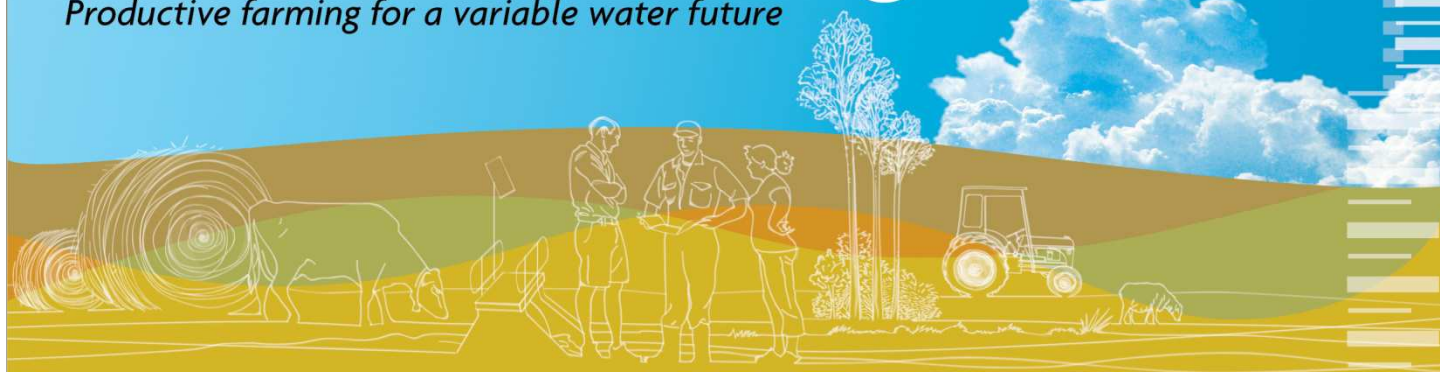


Innovative Farming

Productive farming for a variable water future



FARMING FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

PRODUCTIVE LAND-USE FOR A VARIABLE WATER FUTURE

The *Farming for Australian Conditions (FFAC)* project has been developed to address land-use issues associated with climate variability in the Loddon Campaspe Irrigation Region. The primary focus of the project is to provide information on the productive farming options that use less or no irrigation water, whilst also increasing soil carbon and reducing erosion. Funded through the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* initiative, the project will continue until June 2013.

The *FFAC* project aims to provide local farmers with relevant and accurate information, to assist their decision making process.

EXPLORING LAND-USE OPTIONS

Identification, testing and demonstrating potential land-use options for land that is no longer intensively irrigated is a main focus of the *FFAC* project. Local trial and demonstration sites are developed and used to assess whether various options will result in viable and sustainable agricultural alternatives in the long term across the region.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Workshops, field days and farm walks exploring land-use options are held across the region. Landholders have an opportunity to hear local farmers and guest speakers who present their knowledge and experience at these events. These events help promote a deeper understanding of the opportunities that these options may provide.

RESPONDING TO FEEDBACK

The project has a large emphasis on delivering information that farmers need. Surveys are conducted at each event and used to inform the development of future activities such as field days, farm walks and forums.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The *FFAC* project is working in partnership with other agencies and individuals to ensure relevant, up to date information is presented throughout the project's life.

Examples of Land-Use Options



Figure 1. Biodiversity plantings including sandalwood (insert) for profit



Figure 2. Farm forestry for firewood and fence posts



Figure 3. Cattle grazing saltbush on previously unproductive land



Figure 4. Feedpad from ex-dairy now used to store hay for wagyu production highlighting land use change

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the *Farming for Australian Conditions* project contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
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