



Cross Sectoral Integration and Extension

1. What is the project about?

Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase II is focused on three areas: Developing new and innovative irrigation technologies, optimising benefits of automated irrigation systems and closing the irrigation productivity yield gap through best practice extension.

The cross sectoral integration and extension project aims to facilitate extension of the results from each of these three focus areas to a broad audience. It will also explore opportunities for transformative research. The project will support peer to peer interaction and provide agriculture producers the opportunity to network and learn from producers across a wide range of irrigation industries. Enhanced understanding of resource efficiencies will be facilitated by cross sectoral interaction.

In addition, the support of and collaborations between commercial, industry and research organisation will reduce the time to market for new and innovative technologies in the irrigation industry.



2. Why do irrigators need to know about it?

The goal is to support irrigators to adopt new and innovative tools and technologies which will enable improvements in productivity, efficient resource utilisation and improved profitability.

The increased focus on integration and extension will bring irrigators, advisers and researchers from a broad range of industries together to support peer to peer learning.

The project will provide irrigators who are seeking objective, commercially relevant information about the options available to enhance irrigation systems, opportunities to see commercially operating systems on farm and to discuss their needs with other producers.



3. How will the research benefit irrigators?

The cross-sector integration and extension project will extend learnings from the 36 farmer led optimised irrigation sites located on commercial farms across Australia. It will build on the research outcomes from phase I and encourage greater collaboration and participation by irrigators in co-learning sites.

There will be a focus on infield interaction between researchers, advisers and producers, as well as increased opportunities for cross sector learning from the industries of sugar, rice, cotton, dairy and grains.

There is significant potential for new technology to transition into new sectors and broaden its market fit.



4. Key results to date

Smarter Irrigation for Profit phase I found that significant improvements could be made by irrigators through improved measurement, monitoring and adoption of technologies.

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