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Collaboration and Innovation Provides Big Benefits for Australian Irrigators

Evoke^{AG} 2020 is the Asia Pacific's largest Agrifood tech event focusing on the themes of food, farm and future. *Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase II* integration coordinator Louise Gall said

"This was the ideal opportunity to launch the *Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase II* video which highlights how the Australian irrigation industries of cotton, dairy, sugar, rice and grains are using research and innovation to enhance productivity and profitability of over 4,000 farmers."

Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase II supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program is a collaborative partnership between five of the major irrigation industries, key research organisations and local farmer groups. Project manager Cathy Phelps said

"*Smarter Irrigation for Profit phase II* has brought together some of the best irrigation researchers in the country. These researchers are actively working across Australia's irrigation industries to develop new irrigation technologies, to improve irrigation scheduling techniques and to investigate strategies to reduce water storage evaporation."

"There is a strong focus on offering practical, cost effective strategies to improve efficiencies at a farm level, a critical requirement to enhance broad adoption of new tools and technologies throughout the irrigation industry."

Integration coordinator Ms Gall said "The project is supporting a network of 36 farmer led optimised irrigation sites located on commercial farms across Australia. Farmers and advisors are working with researchers to optimise irrigation through the utilisation of existing and emerging decision support tools and technologies.

"These sites are critical to boosting on farm adoption and will ensure that the information developed through the project is readily available to irrigators and their advisors. Farmers can visit these optimised irrigation sites to learn how technology can be utilised to enhance their own farms sustainability into the future." She said.

The *Smarter Irrigation for Profit phase II* is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment as part of its Rural R&D for Profit program, round four. The project is led by Cotton Research and Development Corporation in partnership with four other RDCs and nine research organisations. The project is building on the success of Smarter Irrigation for Profit phase I.

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For more detail on Smarter Irrigation for Profit phase II please visit the project website; <https://www.crdc.com.au/smarter-irrigation-phase-2>

Integration contact: Louise Gall M: 0427 521 498

E: lou.gall@gvia.org.au

Project management contact: Cathy Phelps M: 0439 555 001

E: cathy.phelps@bigpond.com