



Stirlings to Coast Farmers are proud to announce that we have been successful in our recent AgriFutures Producer Technology Uptake Program (PTUP) grant application.

Under the Producer Technology Program, 24 digital rain gauges will be supplied to SCF members, under a wider regional rainfall mapping program that benefits all SCF members.

### Project Summary:

The SCF PTUP Water Use Efficiency trial involves the implementation of digital technologies that help raise grower awareness of weather variability and methods to improve overall on-farm water use efficiency. Ultimately, we want to lead our grower members onto a successful digital technology adoption path that helps improve their overall farm productivity & profitability.

This two-part program will involve a workshop-based training component first, followed by a broad-scale member trial which utilises low-cost rain-gauge devices scattered across 24 farming organisations throughout the Great Southern region of WA. This rainfall data will be collated to produce rainfall variability maps each week across the whole membership zone, with a final rainfall value map & yield-potential map produced at the end of the season. Members will be able to analyse their management processes and identify potential shortcomings where their actual yield is lower than their potential yields.

At project conclusion, members will ultimately have a better understanding of how digital technologies could be utilised to better inform decision-making processes and how to best implement them from experience.

### How can I be involved & what will I get out of the project?

To claim your free digital rain-gauge valued at \$650 each, members participating will be required to attend a smart farms training workshop later this year. Workshop participants will learn about digital technologies available, create a technology uptake plan which they can utilise on their own property and also have the opportunity to ask the specialists on how they can implement technologies on their own property.



At the project's end (February-March 2022), the SCF team and technology specialists will engage with each rain gauge host member and review their technology adoption plan, record their experiences with the project and answer any questions they may have.

In addition, all SCF members will receive a link to weekly rainfall variability maps and have the ability to access the dedicated resource portal created by AgriFutures.

### What is the catch and are there any fees to be involved?

Stirlings to Coast Farmers will donate one cellular based rain-gauge to each member farming organisation who wishes to take part in the project, on a first-come, first served basis. In lieu of donating the rain-gauge (RRP \$650 ea), installation of the rain-gauge and development of technology adoption plans, SCF kindly requests that the member covers the upkeep of the device, a minimal \$70/year Telstra connection/dashboard fee.

To learn more about the SCF AgriFutures Water Use Efficiency project or to register interest in hosting a rain gauge on your property please email Philip at [philip.honey@scfarmers.org.au](mailto:philip.honey@scfarmers.org.au).

### Acknowledgements

The development of the SCF Rainfall Variability Mapping Project was made possible through funding support from AgriFutures.

