



Drought Hub Update

Stirlings to Coast Farmers, as a 'Drought Hub Node', provides guidance to the Nationally coordinated 'Future Drought Fund' on drought & climate resilience issues for the Albany Region.

WHAT'S NEW

Drought resilience priorities reviewed

Local drought resilience priorities were reviewed during recent meetings of the SW WA Hub's four Regional Advisory Committees (RACs). The committees also discussed FDF-funded projects and identified the 'gaps' for new projects.

The RACs comprise skills-based representatives of agricultural industries for each of four agro-ecological zones covered by the hub and represent the agro-ecological zones Southern Rangelands, Mid West & Gascoyne Coastal, South West and Wheatbelt.

If you have ideas for drought resilience initiatives in the region, contact the SW WA Hub staff, or your local RAC member or Regional Node Lead organisation.

See the SW WA Hub webpages for a list of contacts - <https://hub.gga.org.au/>

Keep eyes peeled for transformational program

SW WA Hub Consortium Partners are urged to keep their eyes open for an opportunity to drive transformational change of agricultural systems and improve resilience to drought and climate change.

The hub will be in contact with Partners this month seeking Expressions of Interest for project ideas.

Collaborative projects will be encouraged, and end-user involvement will be required in the design and management of projects.

FDF project in-focus – AgTech decoded, growers critically analysing the role of new technology in on-farm decision making

The AgTech decoded project, led by Liebe Group with SCF as partners, is in its final stages. SCF Smart Farms Coordinator, Phil Honey, has been out and about in the past few months presenting the main learnings from the project. In summary;

- Growers are interested in tech that can add value to their business.
- Growers are most interested in technology that is used to make critical management decisions - crop planting, crop

nutrition, soil amelioration, weed detection and management.

- Many of the existing technologies do not provide a clear value proposition.
- Better integration & automation is required but it cannot be time consuming.
- Support remains paramount!
- Technology has significantly improved in the last decade, providing a sign of hope that it will continue to develop in the coming years.
- Farmers put great amount of value and trust into these technologies, however there is still a lack of fulfilment from WA farmers.
- Ag tech providers must continue to work closely with researchers and growers to develop tech into useful products.
- Farmers are always willing to try technology.

Have your say on soils research

Are you working with growers, managing land, or have an interest in the future of WA soils?

SW WA Hub Regional Soil Coordinator Jenni Clausen encourages you to represent what you see as missing in soil research, development and extension in your region by completing a national survey.

The funding for the survey is through the Regional Soil Coordinator project, from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) National Landcare Program. It is anonymous, has 24 questions and takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Results will be used to provide a report to the Australian Government on regional priorities for improved soil management in support of the National Soil Strategy and for WA, the WA Soil Health Strategy.

Anyone wanting help, or more information about the survey, is encouraged to contact Ms Clausen via jenni.clausen@murdoch.edu.au or 0419 816 127.

Complete the survey here - https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6JSMQiyE7PnF2YK