



Since our last update in the Winter Newsletter, the Smart Farms team have been busy installing some additional weather-stations and remote rain gauges throughout the membership base. These additional stations are placed at some of our key trial sites and strategic locations, in a broader aim to:

- Increase the value of data captured at trial sites
- Increase our operational efficiencies by removing the need to manually visit trial sites to collect climatic information
- In-fill some of the missing rain data points within our membership zone not covered by existing weather stations, and
- Help our members access weather data from a station typically closer to their farm.

SCF is committed to strengthening our weather network by adding an ag-tech component in all future trial proposals with our funding bodies, and we welcome our grower members adding stations to the network to help build more significant levels of forecasting accuracy and improve levels of on-farm productivity. Stay tuned to learn more about our rainfall variation mapping work and how you can get involved!

## Recent Equipment Installations

### SATELLITE REMOTE RAIN GAUGES

SCF has recently installed 3x GoannaAg satellite rain gauges in strategic locations in Woogenellup, Takalarup & South Stirlings. These quick and easy to install rain gauges clip over a star-picket, and report rainfall each time a satellite passes over the station. Being satellite-based, these units work where there is no mobile phone coverage at all. However, there is a trade-off, and this is the upload frequency. Currently, there are three satellites that pass over our rain-gauges each day, leading to 4 uploads per day. However, over the next couple of years, South Australian satellite company Myriota will be expanding their satellite fleet to 22, which will result in more frequent uploads for “real-time” rainfall tracking.



### WEATHER STATIONS

Recently we’ve also installed 2x Metos 3.3 weather stations at the GRDC Sub Surface Drainage Demonstration (Cranbrook) and FAR Hyper Yielding (South Stirlings) Demonstration sites. These high accuracy weather stations consistently log and record climatic conditions such as temperature & humidity and rainfall, as well as log wind speed & direction and solar radiation. Leaf wetness sensors will be installed in the next growing season, which can be implemented into disease modelling services. The Cranbrook Metos station will also be connected to two-soil moisture probes to measure “drained” & “undrained” soil water content in our GRDC supported Sub-Surface Drainage Project.