



## The National Landcare Facilitator

### Newsletter – February 2011

Welcome to the February edition of the National Landcare Facilitator (NLF) Newsletter. The start of 2011 could best be described as “eventful” for many people with damage from floods, fires and cyclones across the nation still being assessed. The long road to recovery has begun for many people and communities and many people and organisations within the broader Landcare movement across the country are and will continue to play an important role. In the few weeks since the start of the year, few parts of the country have escaped the direct impact of various natural disasters and no one in the broader community is immune from the impact of these on food prices and the economy in general.

This edition of the NLF Newsletter is lengthy so I have included links to the various articles this time. I would also like to thank those who have assisted with articles for this edition. For those who would like to feature an article or other information in future editions, please email me at [brett.dehayr@nrm.gov.au](mailto:brett.dehayr@nrm.gov.au).

[Recent CFOC Funding Announcements](#), [Precision Agriculture – the Landcare Opportunity](#), [Landcare & Community Science](#), [Landcare in Germany ? – We are not alone](#), [Wildhaven](#), [Weeds of National Significance](#), [Regional Landcare Facilitators](#), [International Food Prices](#), [New UK Report on the Future of Food & Farming](#), [Grants](#), [Other News](#), [Publications](#).

### Recent CFOC Funding Announcements

Last week Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Dr Mike Kelly, announced funding under Caring For Our Country for **Landcare in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges** [media release](#), **Improving Sustainable Fishing Practices in Tasmania** [media release](#), **\$300,000 for Landcare in the Central West Catchment** - the Central West Catchment Management Authority will receive \$300,000 to improve management practices on salt affected land [media release](#), **Landcare in Western Victoria** - the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group in western Victoria will receive \$269,734 to enhance biodiversity and soil conditions [media release](#), **Funding for Landcare in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region** - the Mallee Sustainable Farming Incorporated will receive \$291,450 to improve land management practices in the Murray-Darling Basin region of South Australia [media release](#), **Funding for Landcare in the New South Wales Dairy Industry** - Dairy NSW Ltd project will receive \$300,000 to improve soils and protect biodiversity on dairy farms across New South Wales [media release](#).

### Precision Agriculture – the Landcare Opportunity?

By Jeff Tullberg, CTF Solutions

The label ‘precision agriculture’ (PA) was first in the 1980s to describe the process of using GPS positioning and yield monitoring to produce yield maps as a basis for better crop management. The technology has been improved and refined over the years and is now used on a regular basis by some farmers, providing better matching of fertiliser inputs to crop performance within defined management zones.

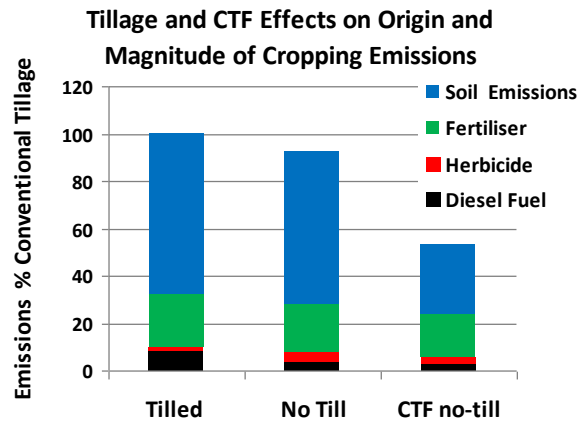


Since that time, the accuracy of affordable GPS systems has improved from 5 m to 2 cm (nominal values), so the opportunities to improve the economic and environmental performance of farming are also correspondingly greater. The first opportunity is controlled traffic farming (CTF), improving crop performance

by optimal management of non-wheeled beds, and machinery performance by keeping all heavy wheels on hard permanent traffic lanes.

CTF is the original 'no-brainer': the most basic CTF system will produce a dramatic reduction in fuel consumption, simultaneously increasing rainfall infiltration rates, soil health and crop performance. GPS also allows precise contour mapping, the basis for better paddock layout and water management.

High-quality CTF systems are the basis for increased cropping frequency and residue protection in permanent no-till broadacre cropping. It is also the basis for greatly reduced tillage in intensive horticulture.



As precise guidance becomes cheaper and more reliable, more farmers are looking at the opportunities available from a precise relationship between machine and crop, or crop residue. The obvious application -- careful positioning of the next crop in relation to residue of the previous crop -- is already widely used, reducing seeding problems and disease carryover where cereal is planted on cereal. It can facilitate rotation when a strong residue is used to encourage and support taller growth in low growth-habit, difficult-to-harvest legumes

Precision principles are also the basis of band application of pesticides, 'shield spraying' and 'weed seeker' technology; different aspects of precision that will be increasingly important in dealing with herbicide-tolerant weeds. As fertiliser gets more expensive, split application, often rapidly and precisely placed as liquids, will also reduce costs and off-site impact.

It's interesting to note that every one of these 'precision' technologies has an environmental payoff, as well as underwriting greater crop yields at reduced cost. One example is the triple-bottom-line benefits of using CTF for timely application of fertiliser to non-compacted soil -- which has greater biological activity and is less easily waterlogged. The outcome: less fertiliser applied, less pollutants in the waterways and (from preliminary indications) a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas production.

For the urban community, the label Landcare has often been associated with organic and permaculture-type cropping. These systems might indeed have significant ecological benefits and be suitable for wealthy niche markets and alternative lifestyles. Unfortunately, they are usually impractical on a large-scale, and quite incapable of feeding the large urban communities which are home to a rapidly-growing world population.

"Precision' technologies, based on modular, accurately guided CTF systems provide a great opportunity for more ecologically-based production. Obvious examples are the use intercropping or relay cropping, where two different crops (on different timescales) grow simultaneously in alternate rows. It is not difficult to see this approach extended to systems such as 'alley cropping' which might allow the incorporation of perennials in spatially defined zones.

A small number of innovative farmers are already taking tentative steps towards these new applications of 'PA', but the whole topic is too adventurous, time consuming and failure-prone for mainstream rural research and development organisations. The applied aspects are expensive, and don't fit the three-year University research funding cycle. Is it just possible that a community-based organisation like Landcare could be the prime mover for such projects?

***If you are interested in learning more about the linkages between Landcare, Farming Practice, Food Security and the farm sector's contribution to Mitigating Climate Change, you can hear all these topics debated, and more at the World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, Brisbane, September 25 – 29, 2011. See <http://www.wcca2011.org/index.htm>***

**Jeff Tullberg has played a leading role in the development of controlled traffic farming systems and minimum tillage in Australia and lectured for a number of years at Gatton Agricultural College/University of Queensland.**

Last year while travelling from a Victorian Landcare Conference in Halls Gap back to Melbourne, I had the opportunity to have an extended discussion with Dr Ruth Beilin, who is social scientists with a long connection to the Landcare movement.

Over the couple of hours driving, we covered a number of issues relating to Landcare, but one, which was of particular interest, was what Ruth referred to as "Community Science". As Ruth pointed out, science has played a critical role in many of the productive and environmental gains made by Landcare since its inception. However, just as scientists have played an important role, so have tens of thousands of individuals and community groups in the experimentation and adaptation of Landcare techniques in the field to our diverse production systems and ecosystems across the country.

When Landcare started, we did not have the solutions to many of the problems which were being faced. It was farmers and community groups who worked along with scientists through trial and error to find out what would work in their area. This spirit of innovation and "Community Science" was critical to the large gains that the Landcare movement has achieved along with a willingness to accept that if you leave responding to a problem until you have all the solutions, then you may never begin.

To 'safeguard' and 'protect' sound more defensive than this position really can be because we don't know all the information we need about the interactions of elements in the future; and we need to keep living in these landscapes. To make decisions now, we must accept the idea that we will negotiate the future in adaptive and innovative ways. "

A current illustration of this is issues such as soil carbon and sequestration in our landscapes which are relatively new and while much good science is underway, our knowledge is far from complete. Through "Community Science", Landcare can continue to play a key role in meeting new challenges posed by issues like soil carbon, greenhouse gas mitigation, climate adaptation and food security while continuing to make real contributions to our environment.

Importantly Ruth says that "While scientists will continue to play a critical role, we need more information about what is happening 'everywhere' and a wider understanding of how all these elements of change interconnect. It is like a giant mapping project of the continent—not just its physical changes but also the social interaction with those changes as culture and practice demonstrate new 'norms' of adaptation. We need community scientists everywhere on the ground. We need program support to incorporate feedback systems between scientists and community."

"Landcare members contribute to biophysical science, and in particular—but not only—to conservation biology and biogeography. These have helped to construct the images we have of Australian biodiversity and its relationship to ourselves and, some of the 'facts' used in scientific research and practice. Studies in ecological restoration, for example, have frequently derived from the everyday landscape experiences of Friends, Landcare and productivity groups which are all part of the broader Landcare movement."

Ruth went on to say that, "Recently governments have adopted the phrase 'resilient communities' to cover all manner of responses to future shocks, be they economic, environmental or social. "Community Science" is a step in recognizing and supporting local environmental knowledge. Resilience is not a mantle we can assume. It needs to be co-constructed. Legitimizing the role of community science so we better understand biophysical changes in our ecosystems, is a step on the path to social resilience."

It is important that the potential for "Community Science" within the broader Landcare movement is harnessed if we are to respond to the challenges of a new generation. We need to be prepared to make mistakes and learn by trial and error and this must involve scientists, the community and the people actively responding to each other to understand changes to the biophysical and social realities in our landscapes.



**Dr. Ruth Beilin**  
Associate Professor,  
Landscape Sociologist  
Resource Management  
& Geography at the  
University of Melbourne

## Landcare in Germany? – We are not alone

Since its inception in Australia in the 1980's, Landcare is now present in varying forms in over 17 countries in the Pacific, Africa, North America, Europe and south East Asia. Germany is an example of a developed economy that has an active and dynamic Landcare movement, which in some ways has many similarities to Landcare in Australia, but also has its own unique characteristics.



### German Association for Landcare

The following is an extract from the German Landcare Association and more detail can be found at [http://www.lpv.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/data\\_files/Publikationen/English\\_Documents/Landcare\\_in\\_Germany.pdf](http://www.lpv.de/fileadmin/user_upload/data_files/Publikationen/English_Documents/Landcare_in_Germany.pdf)

In Germany, there were two seemingly opposing groups - environmentalists on the one side and farmers on the other - with different ideas on how to manage the land. However, local political leaders and representatives of local nature conservation agencies brought these two groups together. The first regional Landcare Association (LCA) was founded in Bavaria in 1986 to enhance co-operation between these opposing interest groups.



The graphic above is used by Landcare in Germany to signify the partnership between conservationists, farmers and the government.

Interestingly, Landcare in Germany started at about the same time, as it started in Australia in 1986. Nobody had actually brought the idea of Landcare to Germany – it happened by coincidence, but later, the expression, “Landcare” was adopted from Australia – it gives the right impression – caring for the land we manage. This idea came from pioneer leaders of the three founding groups (farmers, conservationists, politicians).

Today, activists, farmers and local administrations are working together to implement integrated and sustainable land management practices in many rural areas of Germany. This approach, which was then referred to as Landcare, was found successful, because each group had an equal voice – no group was stronger than the other. Since then, the Landcare approach or concept spread quickly in some parts of Germany.

Financial support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment was sought, to initiate a project to spread the Landcare concept more actively. Conservation groups, farmers and local politicians initiated the formation of local LCAs, and by 2006, 141 regional LCAs have been formed across Germany. With funding support from local and national governments, some local LCAs lobbied for, and initiated efforts to create the German Association for Landcare (Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V., or DVL), and in 1993, the DVL was created as an umbrella association, representing all LCAs at the national level.

Europe has been cultivated for centuries. This has led to diverse landscapes in the countryside with mountain-meadows, poor-soil pastures, hedgerows and orchards. Unless continually managed by farmers, these areas will be left under fallow, or revert to forests. The endangered flora and fauna that have adapted to these extensive farmland habitats will disappear, and the regions would lose their attraction both to investors and tourists. It was believed that maintaining these diverse cultivated landscapes can still meet the desired conservation goals, and benefits rural communities and tourism.

This is where most Landcare Associations (LCAs) in Germany are currently focused. The LCAs, bridge the gap between and among diverse land use interests, bringing regional stakeholders together to coordinate their various interests. For instance, farmers want to earn money from their hard work, the tourism industry wants to sell a magnificent landscape, while conservationists are concerned about the security of plant and animal habitats. Subsequently, Landcare groups supported the idea of linking farmers' interests with aspects of sustainable land use and biodiversity.

In general, Landcare-Germany aims to:

1. Create a network of natural habitats in order to protect the native fauna and flora as well as the biological resources in all of Germany's cultivated landscapes.
2. Support environment friendly land use systems and regional economic development.

3. Help farmers earn additional income from conservation and landscape management and market their regional products.
4. Raise awareness of the importance of appropriate land management through the landcare approach, involving the formal education system (even Kindergartens) to ensure that Landcare is mainstreamed in current and future education curriculum and programs.

Landcare coordinators organize and supervise the implementation of activities with local farmers, and monitor project outcomes. In all these processes, coordinators closely work with local communities, conservation groups, and government authorities such as conservation, agriculture, forestry and water management authorities. But farmers are the main “actors” in the implementation phase because they are more familiar with their local landscape.

In Germany, the community has great influence on land management issues. Hence, LCAs work with local communities, involving the local mayor and the municipal council. They are crucial stakeholders in initiating Landcare projects on public lands, such as those focused on improving grazing on conservation sites and watercourse-restoration. In some cases, the local community acquires adjacent lands from farmers and landowners to improve the watercourse in a Landcare project.

Initially, Landcare projects evolved from just planting trees or hedges and grass cutting, to maintaining diverse cultivated landscapes. Later, a new strategy was developed to promote sustainable management of extensive land-use systems, by helping farmers market their quality products, such as apple juice and lamb-meat. These products, which are typical commodities from different regions, are produced under environment-friendly production systems.

Farmers are also being helped to “create” and market new “nature-conservation products”, like lamb-meat from dry limestone pastures as a regional speciality. Product expansion, like apple juice from orchards has shown a great potential in the establishment of regional economies. This has helped farmers, restaurant owners, local butchers, and the local economy as a whole—increasing cash-flow within the local market.

LCAs rely on the principle of voluntary participation, where it is found crucial for long-term success and sustainability. LCAs act upon the request of landowners such as local communities, private persons or organisations. Its strength lies, where official competence and regulation find their limit. No landscape looks the same-- each habitat requires a different management approach. Hence, LCAs considers regional differences and focuses on the preservation of specific landscapes. Instead of uniformity, the LCAs promote regional diversity, which forms the basis for long-term attractiveness for recreation and tourism.

During the last twenty years, Landcare in Germany has developed into a powerful force that catalyses positive change in the way agricultural landscapes and conservation areas are currently managed, particularly in less favoured areas. Although this process did not go without problems and challenges, the main source of strength, where Landcare has drawn its success is from the commitment and cooperation of the farming communities that share a common purpose – more than 20.000 farmers all over Germany are now working together within their LCA structures to maintain the natural beauty and ecological capital of their regions.

## Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)

Because of the wide-spread rainfall across Australia and the recent flooding events there is great concern that an explosion of weed growth and weed spread will occur. That concern is due to the wetter conditions across Australia, the spread of weed seeds in flood waters; the potential for seed transfer in hay, grains and other animal fodder; and the potential for weed spread due to earth-moving machinery being transported around for flood restoration works.

Please also be alert for ‘new incursions’, weeds that may not have been seen in your location. The Weeds of National Significance Program is a national program that focuses on 20 weeds selected and agreed because of their impact on production, human health, and the environment.

The WoNS Program information will help people identify weeds and provide options for control, containment and management actions. The WoNS Program has National Coordinators for each of the 20 weeds. The WoNS coordinators are based and housed within state agencies except WA.

To find the details of the 20 Weeds of National Significance, contact details for the WoNS coordinators and information on available resources go to: [www.weeds.gov.au/contacts/wons](http://www.weeds.gov.au/contacts/wons) and [www.weeds.org.au/wons](http://www.weeds.org.au/wons) .

The strategic plans for each WoNS are now being revised and will be available for comment at [www.weeds.org.au/wons](http://www.weeds.org.au/wons)

The WoNS Program does not provide financial support for weed management programs and projects. For financial support/grants, contact your Local Government, Catchment or Regional Natural Resource Management Body, or your relevant State agency.

## Wildhaven



Late last year, I had the opportunity to visit a remarkable couple, Allan and Stella Reid who run “Wildhaven” which is refuge for injured wildlife not far from Melbourne. The refuge, including most of the animals and the Reid's house was destroyed during the Victorian Bushfires. Since then, Allan and Stella have been working tirelessly to rebuild Wildhaven. This is a great example of the Landcare work being done by many people right across the fire-affected areas of Victoria. Holden and Landcare through the Holden Environment Landcare Program (HELP) have assisted in the rebuilding of Wildhaven with a donation of \$12,000 for new infrastructure. The picture above is with Richard Marshall from Holden who presented a cheque on the day and was one of the Holden staff who helped with revegetation plantings at Wildhaven. A documentary on ABC1 will feature the work at Wildhaven and will go to air at 7.30 on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Regional Landcare Facilitators

Last year the Federal Government announced funding for 56 Regional Landcare Facilitators (RLF's) which will have a critical role in Landcare activities in their area as well as providing two way information and feedback between local communities and relevant Federal Government Programs. As the National Landcare Facilitator, I look forward to working with the RFL's to help them provide meaningful support to Landcare within their communities. Many of the RLF's are now in place and below is a list of the RLF's, host organisation and contacts for each region. The first national gathering of the RLF's will occur in Canberra on the 8,9,10<sup>th</sup> March and will include briefings on related programs such as the Carbon Farming Initiative.

Region	Host Organisation	Contacts	Phone	
New South Wales	Murray	Holbrook Landcare Group	Edwina Hayes, Paul Martin	02 6020 5235
	Namoi	New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Incorporated	Tanya Mucillo, Rachel Webster	02 6741 8332
	Border Rivers-Gwydir	New England North West Landcare Network Chairs Incorporated	Sally Dickinson, Jennie Coldham	02 6772 9123
	Lower Murray-Darling	Lower Murray-Darling Catchment Management Authority	Bonnie Pettett	03 5021 9444

	Western	Western Catchment Management Authority	Anne Holst	02 6872 2144
	Northern Rivers	North Coast Regional Landcare Network Incorporated	Jodie Gager, Jennie Coldham	02 6556 5099
	Central West	Central West Catchment Management Authority	Danielle Littlewood	02 6881 3421
	Hunter Central Rivers	Hunter Region Landcare Network Incorporated	TBA	
	Lachlan	Lachlandcare Incorporated	Gerald Carnie, Leanne Leihn	02 6385 3217
	Southern Rivers	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Peter Piggott	02 4429 4445
	Sydney Metro	Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority	Judy Christie, Helen Kemp, Simon Rowe	02 9895 7753
	Hawkesbury-Nepean	Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority	Vanessa Keyzer	02 4725 3047
	Murrumbidgee	Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated	TBA	02 62957718
<b>ACT</b>	ACT	ACT Natural Resource Management Council	Anna Van Dugteren Salyl McIntosh	02 6205 2914
<b>Tasmania</b>	NRM North	Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated	Adrian James	03 6333 7777
	Cradle Coast	Cradle Coast Authority	Alice Ryder	03 6431 6285
	NRM South	Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association	Barry Hardwick	03 6221 6199
<b>Victoria</b>	North East	Ovens Landcare Network	Amber Croft & Dave Cromarty	0408 930 508
	Glenelg Hopkins	Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Mark Stretch	03 5551 3351
	Wimmera	Project Platypus Association Incorporated	Bob Wallace, Bindi Lees & Trevor Barker	03 5358 4410
	Corangamite	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Grant Godden	03 5232 9100
	East Gippsland	Far East Victoria Landcare Inc	TBA	03 5161 1365
	North Central	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Ashley Beven	03 5440 1809
	West Gippsland	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Mar	1300 094 262
	Goulburn Broken Port Phillip and Westernport	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Charlie Sexton	03 5761 1619
		Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority	TBA	03 9296 4662
	Mallee	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Jo Latta	03 5051 4331
<b>South Australia</b>	South East	South East Natural Resource Management Board	Tarnya Dalla (Brooksby)	08 8762 9148
	Northern and Yorke	Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board	Michael Richards	08 8636 2361

	Eyre Peninsula	Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board	Linden Masters, Corey Yeates, Kieran Wauchope	08 8680 6210, 08 8628 2077, 08 8688 3409.
	Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges	Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board	Melanie Bullers, Anthony Fox	08 8389 5913 08 8523 7718
	Alinytjara Wilurara	Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resource Management Board	TBA	08 8357 3880
	South Australian Arid Lands	SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board	Jonathon Fatt-Clifton, Kate Forrest Grant	08 8648 5963 08 86485977
	Kangaroo Island	Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board	Flanagan, Mark Morris, Kate Buck	08 85534370
	South Australian Murray-Darling	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board	Leighton Pearce	08 8582 4477
<b>Western Australia</b>	Northern Agriculture	Northern Agriculture Catchments Council Incorporated	Stanley Yokwe	08 9964 9774
	South Coast	South Coast Natural Resource Management Incorporated	Kylie Bishop, Karl Hansom, David Broadhurst	08 9845 8505
	South West	South West Catchments Council	Jill Richardson, Kate Scott	08 9780 6193
	Swan	Perth Region NRM Incorporated	Sandy Pate	08 9374 3302
	Rangelands	Rangelands Natural Resource Management Co-ordinating Group Incorporated	Melanie McDonald, Kaz Johnson, Alex Harper	08 9941 9743
	Avon	Wheatbelt Natural Resources Management Incorporated	Nathan Heal, Natarsha Woods	08 9690 2250
<b>Queensland</b>	Desert Channels	Desert Channels Queensland Incorporated	Mr Chris Rosin	07 4652 7821
	South East Queensland	SEQ Catchments Limited	Kit Krause	07 3816 9724
	Border Rivers Maranoa-Balonne	Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Incorporated	Cassandra Grunberger	07 4637 6206
	South West Queensland	South West NRM Limited	Jean Prow	07 4656 8500
	Burdekin	NQ Dry Tropics Ltd	Riaan Breedt, Peter Arthofer	07 4724 3544
	Burnett Mary	Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Incorporated	TBA	07 4181 2999 (ext 109)
	Northern Gulf	Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Limited	Erica Blumson, Kristjan Sorensen	
	Wet Tropics	FNQ NRM Limited (Terrain)	TBA	07 4034 8041
	Torres Strait	Torres Strait Regional Authority	TBA	07 4069 2957
	Southern Gulf	Southern Gulf Catchments Limited	TBA	07 4743 1888
	Cape York	Cook Shire Council	TBA	07 4069 5444
	Condamine	Conservation Farmers Incorporated	Kevin Charlesworth	07 4638-5356
	Fitzroy	Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated	Adam Northey	07 4999 2825

	Mackay Whitsunday	Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Incorporated	Saskia von Fahland, Christine Peterson, Hayley Glover	(07) 4968 205
<b>Northern Territory</b>	Northern Territory	NT Cattlemen's Association Inc	Tim West	08 8981 5976

## International Food Prices

The **FAO Food Price Index (FFPI)** rose for the seventh consecutive month, averaging 231 points in January 2011, up 3.4 percent from December 2010 and the highest (in both real and nominal terms) since the index has been backtracked in 1990. For more information visit: [http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/en/?no\\_cache=1](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/en/?no_cache=1).



## New UK Report of the future of Food & Farming

The global food system needs to be urgently redesigned to bring sustainability centre stage, according to a new report published by Foresight, part of the UK's Government Office for Science. The project aimed to explore the pressures on the global food system between now and 2050 and identify the decisions that policy makers need to take today, and in the years ahead, to ensure that a rising global population can be fed sustainably and equitably.



### Key findings

The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and choices for global sustainability finds that substantial changes will be required throughout the different elements of the food system and related areas, such as sharing water, energy use and addressing climate change, if food security is to be provided for a predicted nine billion or more people by 2050. The report predicts that if no action is taken, the consequences will affect us all. For example,

- There is a threat of further substantial price rises over the coming years. New modelling commissioned by the project suggests a doubling of prices for some food commodities, such as maize.

- Hunger levels will substantially increase, due to higher prices and possible future volatility. Efforts to end hunger are already stalling, with nearly a billion hungry and a billion 'hidden hungry' suffering from deficiencies in micronutrients and vitamins. The Millennium Development Goal on hunger risks not being met.
- There is a real threat of irreversible environmental damage (such as biodiversity) and other significant environmental harm, including land erosion and pollution.

The report calls for a more interconnected approach to policy making, concluding that policy in sectors outside the food system needs to be developed in much closer conjunction with that for food. It lists 12 priorities for action, including:

1. Spread best practice.
2. Invest in new knowledge.
3. Make sustainable food production central in development.
4. Work on the assumption that there is little new land for agriculture.
5. Ensure long-term sustainability of fish stocks.
6. Promote sustainable intensification.
7. Include the environment in food system economics.
8. Reduce waste – both in high- and low-income countries.
9. Improve the evidence base upon which decisions are made and develop metrics to assess progress.
10. Anticipate major issues with water availability for food production.
11. Work to change consumption patterns.
12. Empower citizens.

For full copy of report visit: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/current-projects/global-food-and-farming-futures/reports-and-publications>.

## Grants

**Grants for rural Australia** - The Aussie Farmers Foundation is calling for expressions of interest for its inaugural round of grant funding. The Foundation says it will respond to and support organisations who want to make a real difference in the health of rural and regional communities for both individuals and the community as a whole, by examining ways to bridge the gap and create sustainable and cohesive communities. Grants of between \$15,000 and \$50,000 are available to eligible not for profit organisations with appropriate DGR status. Expressions of Interest close 1 March 2011 and further information visit: <http://www.aussiefarmersfoundation.org.au/>

**Indigenous Land Corporation** – Funding application for land acquisition and land management see: <http://www.ilc.gov.au/site/page.cfm>.

**Queensland's Green Achievers** - Queensland's green achievers are invited to showcase their environmental credentials for the 2011 Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Awards. Each category winner will receive \$5,000 to support their on-going or future sustainability projects. Applications close 4 March 2011 and the winners will be announced at a gala awards dinner in June 2011. For more information, or to apply online, visit <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/premiersawards>.

**Riverprize** - The Thiess International and Australian Riverprizes are awarded for excellence in river management, and are the world's most prestigious environmental prizes. Since 1999, RiverFoundation has awarded over AU\$2.75 million in Riverprize awards. Applications close 30 March and further information is available at [www.riverfoundation.org.au](http://www.riverfoundation.org.au).

**Hermon Slade Foundation** - Believing that "...if there is a way better than another, it is the way of nature", Mr Hermon Slade has sought to encourage the pursuit of excellence in scientific research, particularly on topics which are designed to improve the ways in which individuals and communities interact with their natural environments. As a result, the Hermon Slade Foundation provides support for projects which help meet these aims. Applications for projects, generally up to \$30,000 in value, close Friday 11 March and further information is available at [www.hermonslade.org.au](http://www.hermonslade.org.au).

**Queensland Community Benefit Funds** - The four funds administered by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation close to applications this month. Applications to Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Jupiters

Casino Community Benefit Fund, Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund and Reef Casino Community Benefit Fund close 28 February 2011 and further information is available at <http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au/grants/index.shtml>

## Other News

**Review of Drought Pilot in Western Australia** - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joes Ludwig, has announced the review panel that will assess the pilot of drought reform measures being run in Western Australia. Read the [media release](#)

**Landcare facilitators to play key role in Carbon Farming Initiative** - The Australian Government has announced further consultations with farmers and landholders on the Carbon Farming Initiative, an important initiative to enable rural and regional communities to benefit from climate change projects. Read the [media release](#)

**Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia Consultation Paper** – Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities: read or make comment by visiting <http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/population/consultation/index.htmlaa>

**Australian Climate & Agriculture Monthly Update January 2011-**  
[http://adl.brs.gov.au/data/warehouse/pe\\_abares99001772/ACAMU-January-2011.pdf](http://adl.brs.gov.au/data/warehouse/pe_abares99001772/ACAMU-January-2011.pdf)

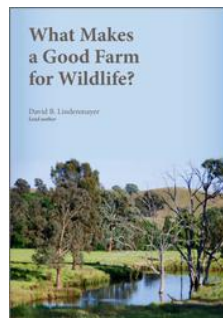
**Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries Conference:** 15 – 17 February 2011 Venue: Melbourne Cricket Ground. See <http://www.theccrspconference.com.au/>.

**Victorian farm Tree & Landcare Association Forum & AGM:** 11.00am 24<sup>th</sup> February Level 16 Marland House 570 Bourke St Melbourne ph 03 9207 5527

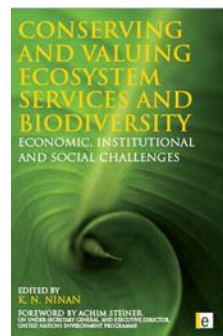
**World Congress on Conservation Agriculture:** Brisbane, September 25 – 29, 2011. See <http://www.wcca2011.org/index.htm>

## Publications

**What makes a good farm for wildlife** – \$39.93 from CSIRO publishing visit: <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6450.htm>.



**Conserving & Valuing Ecosystem services & Biodiversity:** \$72 from CSIRO publishing visit <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18/pid/6703.htm>.



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Regards,  
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