



Such change in Australian agriculture is not new. We need to remind ourselves that farmers have a proud history of innovation and adjusting to change supported by R&D partnerships. Just think of the 'no-till' cropping practice introduced three decades ago. Since then, it has revolutionised crop water-use efficiency which resulted in greater and more reliable yields – especially in average to below average rainfall years.

ABARE reported recently that much of the productivity gain in Australian agriculture can be attributed to improved farm management, crop rotation techniques, and pest and weed control. In future years, sustained productivity growth will be the key to climate change adaptation.

This edition of *Focus on Perennials* provides the latest snap shot of FFI CRC research still focused on profitability, water use and biodiversity, but also now climatic variability. After reading the magazine, it will become apparent that most of the articles, if not all, reinforce my claim that FFI CRC has a unique opportunity to take the lead in creating R&D solutions that will give Australian temperate broadacre agriculture a sustainable and productive future in a drying climate.

I do hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of *Focus on Perennials*. ↘

Riding the train of educational success

FFI CRC is gearing up to launch its exciting new national online training portal, *EverTrain*.

Training and easy access to information is essential to the successful adoption of new technologies and research. FFI CRC is committed to assisting the education of industry representatives and CRC clients including researchers, students, extension officers and farmers.

EverTrain is an all-encompassing training program designed to allow users to undertake training tailored to suit their specific needs. The program will capture and develop training, delivery and assessment material.

EverTrain coordinator Deb Slinger, NSW DPI, said the program will enable the CRC to deliver its training nationally via the internet, while providing users with a local perspective to their learning content.

"For example, a farmer interested in salt land management may log on and download fact sheets on the topic," Deb said. "At the same time he may find out about an interesting workshop on salt-tolerant pastures happening in his area that he can attend."

The online nature provides users with a flexible approach to training, allowing them to log on at a time convenient to them.

EverTrain will also be ideal for agribusiness, extension providers and tertiary students looking to complement their theory with an element of practical experience.

"*EverTrain* really will make FFI CRC information accessible to the people who need it most," Deb said. ↘

↘ More information

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ABOVE: NSW DPI and FFI CRC staff working closely together to develop an environmental management training package and manual for delivery to regional NRM bodies. (Photo: NSW DPI)