

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rural Research and
Development for Profit
Keeping Australian farmers
at the cutting edge



RESEARCH PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN HELPING GUIDE FUTURE

RESEARCH plays a vital role in helping producers and advisers plan for better outcomes.

That is one of the key findings of research forums which have been held around Australia as part of the *Stimulating private sector extension in Australian agriculture to increase returns from R&D* project.

The project is funded through the Australian Government's Rural Research and Development for Profit programme, a \$200 million competitive grants programme.

Stimulating Private Sector Extension involves six partner RDCs - Meat and Livestock Australia, Dairy Australia, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Australian Pork Limited, Sugar Research Australia, Horticulture Innovation Australia - along with the NSW Department of Industry and the Victorian Government.

The research component of the project is being headed by the University of Melbourne, with Research Group Leader Associate Professor Ruth Nettle saying the forums were a key touch-point to the programme.

"What we are finding is that producers and advisers both greatly value research as part of what they do, but sometimes can find it hard to remain connected and access the findings," she said.

"The RDCs play a vital role in ensuring information is distributed in a way which is convenient and affordable to access and use."

Associate Professor Nettle said the research was also looking at incorporating surveys and trials, with the trials being practical research collaborations between RDCs, advisers and producers.

"They will be aimed at increasing the understanding of issues in practice, improving engagement between participants and contributing to action for change," she said.

Further information about the project is available from Associate Professor Nettle at ranettle@unimelb.edu.au or Extension Co-ordinator Ian Linley at Dairy Australia at ilinley@dairyaustralia.com.au

People are encouraged to sign up for the e-newsletter at fvas.unimelb.edu.au/rural-rd

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For more information phone Sue Beattie, 0417 533 962

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