

AgriFutures Australia Evaluation Framework

Purpose

This Evaluation Framework supports AgriFutures Australia's Program Framework; a requirement of the Funding Agreement 2015-19 with the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. AgriFutures Australia consulted with the Commonwealth in preparing this Framework.

Outputs and performance impacts of AgriFutures Australia's Program investments are systematically evaluated through AgriFutures Australia's Evaluation Framework and summarised in the Annual Report.

Aims, objectives, strategies and Key Performance Indicators are set out in each Program's five-year research, development and extension (RD&E) plan. An RD&E plan guides investment decisions and is aided by:

- Evaluation of possible projects in the Program
- On-going evaluation of projects through the life of the Program
- Evaluation of projects at the end of the life of the Program

Evaluation of possible projects in the Program

The decision to invest in a project is made following evaluation of the:

- Alignment of the project with the RD&E Plan, developed in consultation with stakeholders
- Likely economic, societal and environmental impacts
- Value for money and Program budget
- Pathway to adoption, uptake and commercialisation opportunities, where relevant
- Risks associated with the project, including capability of RD&E provider to deliver the project

This evaluation information is captured in AgriFutures Australia's project management system.

On-going evaluation of projects through the life of the Program

Projects are evaluated through their life as milestones are assessed, to ensure the investment continues to be relevant. This evaluation information is also captured in AgriFutures Australia's project management system.

Each project has a communication plan which ensures research and development findings are disseminated effectively and efficiently. Findings are published on AgriFutures Australia's websites, unless there are cogent reasons why publication is not appropriate, such as when a commercialisation opportunity is pursued.

AgriFutures Australia's Annual Report summarises dissemination activities across projects.

Evaluation of projects at the end of the life of the Program

Each Program incorporates a budget to allow the evaluation of projects, towards the end of the five-year life of the Program's RD&E Plan. These post-project evaluations apply the evaluation guidelines for the assessment of performance impacts developed by the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations and are published on AgriFutures Australia's website. AgriFutures Australia also participates in the Council's process for aggregation of performance impact evaluations undertaken across the RDCs.