

APSRU

The Research Unit

In 1990, the Queensland State Government and CSIRO established the joint research team, the Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit (APSRU), based in Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. The formation of APSRU brought together expertise in the computer simulation of farming systems and was intended to facilitate research that would impact on how agricultural production systems are managed. After two successive five-year terms and a successful external review in 2000, another five-year term was agreed by the participating organizations – CSIRO Divisions of Sustainable Ecosystems and Land & Water, the Queensland Departments of Primary Industries and Fisheries and Natural Resources, Mines & Energy and The University of Queensland.

APSRU has created a centre of excellence in the field of agricultural production systems research with the capability of pursuing related world class research and training.

Mission

To benefit rural industries and the environment through innovative systems approaches to research and development.

Core functions

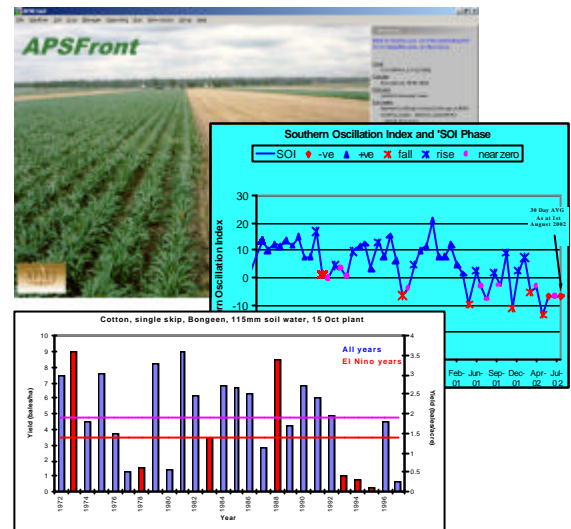
Facilitate research collaborations.

Co-develop and manage research tools, methods and resources.

Influence systems research design.

Examples of impacts

- ☂ Operationalised use of **seasonal climate forecasting** for crop management
- ☂ Assisted farmers and agribusiness to better **understand and measure their soil** resource
- ☂ **Decision tools and processes** used by agricultural consultants in advising farm clients
- ☂ Use by plant breeding companies of **gene to phenotype modelling**
- ☂ Quantified **drainage & salinity risk** in the Murray-Darling Basin
- ☂ Provided policy relevant information for **drought exceptional circumstances assessment**
- ☂ **Scientific publications** cited extensively
- ☂ Scientists invited as **keynote speakers** at national and international symposia



APSRU's 5 Year Plan

There are five key result areas at which APSRU's farming systems R&D project activities are targeted:

Sustainable agricultural systems

Agricultural sustainability positively enhanced via innovative research in rural business systems.

Sustainable catchments and landscapes

New approaches towards integrating and balancing environmental, social and economic factors that can contribute to more sustainable management of catchments and landscapes.

Improved crop design

Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness in plant breeding and crop improvement programs through the development of novel gene to phenotype crop simulation platforms and improved science content in crop models.

Modelling tools and methods

Research communities and industry benefiting from a range of quality software tools and delivery approaches.

Communication and collaboration

Facilitation of collaborative arrangements through effective communication with stakeholders.

For further information

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