

The project is making good progress with all milestones on track to be achieved.

The **M&E Plan** with its associated performance measures and planned M&E activities has been completed and provides an excellent framework and guide to M&E activities. The two baseline surveys (Farmer and Consultant survey and Informed Persons Survey) successfully highlighted current use by producers and consultants of tools and information to manage soil moisture. The need for accurate and reliable data - particularly at an individual farm level and for long-term forecasts and user-friendly tools was highlighted along with increased training and support to help interpret and understand the data.



The twelve members of the **Regional Innovators Group (RIG)** were recruited February this year. This group is made up of leading farmers representatives from across the region along with farm consultants who will guide and monitor the implementation of the project, ensuring it is meeting the needs of the region's farmers. The first Regional Innovators workshop was held in March over two days in Port Lincoln. The purpose of the workshop was to clarify the role of the RIG, and to work through each component of the workshop with the relevant researchers to determine priorities for action and clarify expectations from each of the collaborators with the RIG. Feedback from the workshop was very positive about the process and the project and having a good clarity about the project and their role in it.

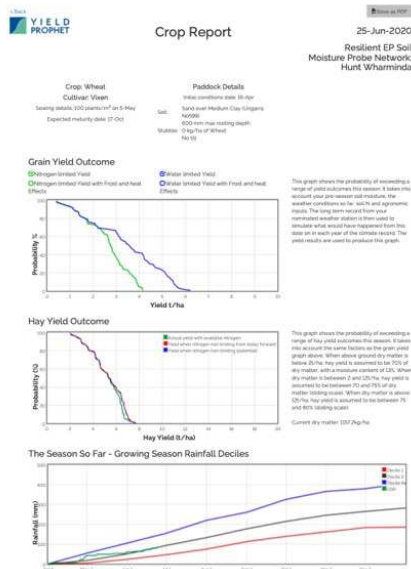
Soil characterisation sites for 2020 have been identified for the soil water sensor network development, and CSIRO plans to attend selected field sites in October to assist SARDI in the sampling process.



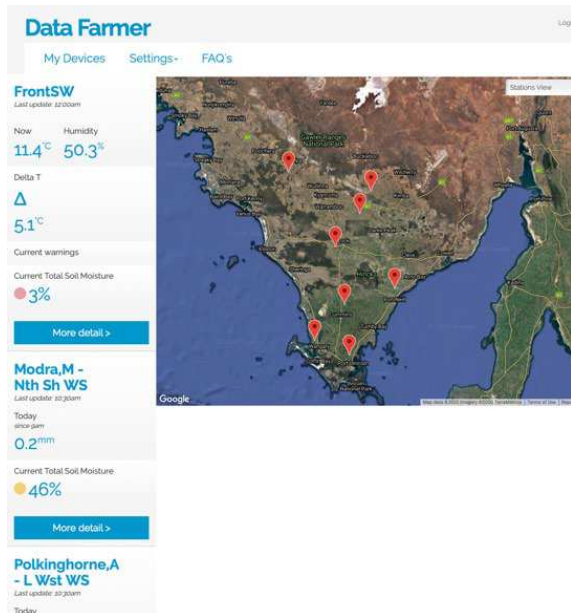
A literature review has been completed by the CSIRO and algorithms selected to consider the optimised sensor network for today's number of probes, and optimal placement of new probes accounting for the present-day network. Initial APSIM runs have been established by the CSIRO for each of the eight 2020 validation field sites and the methodology for Inverse APSIM has been discussed with collaborators. More in-crop soil moisture data is to be collected on the zones of the 8 field sites in 2020 before resources are used on characterising selected paddock zones.



Yield Prophet is being calculated for the eight validation sites throughout the growing season. The information will be updated, and the season progresses and communicated with the region's farmers via the project communications program.



The design of the **Mobile Web Application** by Square V is dependent on the outcomes of the project team's research and extension with the broader farming community, and thus are awaiting the output of those activities before starting design and development. Discussions on the probe data visualisations have commenced with Jacob Giles (the resilient EP project extension and validation officer) as a precursor to this. Climate analysis in this early stage of the project has been greatly assisted by the project team selecting 8 key sites which are representative of cropping subregions of EP. This has enabled a balance between depth and breadth of analysis.



Eight **Validation Sites** were selected from across the region in conjunction with the Regional Innovators. Field work at these sites for the 2020 growing season is progressing largely as planned. Some refinement of methodology was needed due to the ability to gather and process (in conjunction with project partners, CSIRO) data from all of the validation paddocks prior to seeding in 2020. The approach taken allows for this data to be overlaid as it becomes available. Validation trials have begun at all 8 focus paddocks looking at how robust the technology used is. N management is another issue being approached.

Naomi Scholz was appointed the **Project Communications Coordinator**, commencing 4 May 2020. She has been working with project team to determine appropriate activities and timing, and to discuss support for the extension program. This is evolving as roles and expectations are clarified in the early stages of the project.

Jacob Giles commenced as the **Project Extension Officer** on 6 April 2020. An extension work plan for the 2020 calendar year has been prepared. Communication with farmers hosting focus paddocks is occurring regularly, informing them of activities in their paddock and seeking feedback. Regular discussions have included talking through how farmers can apply inputs in ways that will allow measurement of success. Historical yield data and other historical GIS data collected has been collected from each site which will aid in the interpretation of 2020 validation activities.

