



AIR EP

Ag Innovation & Research
Eyre Peninsula

ANNUAL REPORT TO AIR EP MEMBERS

2023-2024

Chairperson's report

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for the year 2023-2024.

The 2024 season has been a considerable challenge to many growers on Eyre Peninsula. At the time of writing this report, most districts can report the lowest January - September rainfall on record. As I travel around the state, and with exceptions locally, crops on EP are in a far better state than in any other region including the more reliable and wetter ones. Had it not been for early and dry sowing operations and control of summer weeds to retain late December 2023 rain, many crops would be in a much poorer state.

In our June meeting we heard from SA Water about the water supply systems across EP. We were all shocked to learn that 38% of the total water use on EP is by farmers. Without the construction of the desalination plant in Port Lincoln, farmers on Eyre Peninsula will face serious water restrictions. The basin system that supplies water to that region is under serious pressure and will collapse and be irreparably damaged if we continue to use water at the current rate. The current drought will only exacerbate the problem. Give some thought as to how a restricted water supply might affect your business.

We're witnessing a significant change in cropping systems, with crops like lentils a common sight across most of EP, often replacing sheep in the system. There is much work to be done to better understand how to get the most out of this crop in the region in the future.

I am in no doubt the merger of EPARF and LEADA to form AIR EP has been a successful structural change. It stated clearly to our partners and funding bodies that we are capable and able to coordinate and lead first class farming systems and land management research, development and extension activities on a range of issues and at a scale that is required to provide efficiency for all.

We have a skills-based board with strategic planning, legal, accounting, human resource, project management and engagement skills that understands how to engage with and deliver results to the range of funding organisations we deal with.

The board continues to review its strategic objectives at every meeting to check that we are meeting targets. Thanks to our great team for your dedicated effort and input. Our key areas of focus more recently include:

- **Effective partnerships**

We continue to develop and strengthen relationships with a wide range of organizations and delivery partners. Specifically and deliberately, we have increased connectivity with independent advisors and reseller networks, as they are in daily discussion with their grower clients, provide valuable feedback regarding grower needs and with them, we work to provide support for meaningful research to help explore new ideas and increase the speed of adoption of new practices. In a busy space with more and more time pressures on growers to attend the information sessions, the conduit for that knowledge transfer that influences farmer decision making is the advisor. We'll continue to work hard in this area to engage more with that sector.

Our key research partners doing the bulk of the trials are EPAG Research and SARDI. To Andrew Ware in particular, I thank you and your team for delivery of a great service and your dedication to identification of research priorities. To the SARDI team, my thanks also for your great work.

- **Investment attraction**

AIR EP finishes the 2023-2024 financial year in a strong position with 33 active projects ranging in value from \$750 to \$1.83m, to a total value of \$5.8 million. Since AIR EP was formed in 2020, 60 projects to a value of \$8 million have been brought to EP.

New projects in 2023-24 include coordination of EP projects to strengthen drought preparedness and drive local action in the Eyre Peninsula region through the coordination of Community Impact Program. This is via the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal, and includes the delivery of the peer to peer learning project for young farmers in the Rudall and Ceduna regions.

SA Drought Hub funded projects including virtual fencing, a needs analysis for strip and disc farming systems research, a strip and disc demonstration site at Buckleboo and break crop option demonstrations at Ungarra and Lock. With the drought hub's support we are in the early stages of developing a mixed farming system program of work collaboratively in partnership with SARDI.

GRDC funded projects include RiskWi\$e, farming systems, brome grass, conclusion of the first Frost tactics project and a new frost project commenced - Further tactics to minimise frost damage on the Eyre Peninsula. This program has delivered outstanding results for the many affected by frost in the region including crop choice in frost areas and has clearly demonstrated the impact of soil amelioration in reducing frost effects.

AIR EP are also continuing to work with the EP Landscape Board in the delivery of the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator role. Farmers learn best from hearing and seeing what other farmers do. A key objective of this position is to assist the team in coordinating more effective small group meetings to focus on specific issues, while at the same time addressing the land management objectives of the investment.

Our reserves remain solid to support existing investments and staff for a period should funding become difficult to obtain.

- **Farmer driven - outcome focussed.**

Our low and medium rainfall groups meet regularly to provide ideas that require research and extension effort. Unless an investment is well designed and funded with the right research and delivery partners, with clear and measurable outcomes that are in line with our identified needs, we won't participate in the program. Trial work should be viewed by farmers, with input from farmers and direct discussion regarding the impact of the investment at every opportunity. We are working to ensure all our research includes a solid extension strategy from the start of the program.

- **Capacity and capability building**

The SAGIT/Drought fund intern program has resulted in the development of several outstanding new researchers on EP. We value this investment highly. We continue to invest in staff professional development and to provide support for training of industry participants/research staff to improve skills and allow networking. In particular, we are working on developing extension and facilitation skills of staff and research and extension partners to better deliver research outcomes and engage more effectively with our members.

Staffing and acknowledgments

To ensure we can continue to deliver on our ambitious goals, we welcomed Rowena Norris to the team as the Operations Manager in January 2024. Her key duties include project management, attracting annual sponsorship and membership, and supporting meeting processes and governance systems. Her appointment will allow Naomi to continue to develop new partnerships and attract ongoing project support in the future.

In December 2023 we farewelled Sustainable Agriculture Officer Josh Telfer, who has commenced working with SARDI as a Senior Research Officer (Soils). Thanks Josh for all the great work you have done with our organisation. We look forward to working with you in the future in your new role.

A special thank you goes to Greg Scholz, who is retiring from our Board in August 2024. Greg's contribution to the board will be sorely missed. The EP farming community owe him a great deal of appreciation for his long standing contribution to research and development.

Thanks also to Naomi, Amy and Rebekah for their dedicated efforts in delivering great research for our region.

Our sponsors have played a pivotal role in supporting our work, and I would like to emphasize the vital importance of staying connected with our agricultural community. Your continued support is deeply appreciated.

Wydong

Bill Long
Chairperson



Above: GRDC and Future Drought Fund sandy soils masterclass held at Ungarra in July 2023.

The organisation

Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP) was officially incorporated on 26 May 2020, with the aim of creating a single entity for farmer driven applied research, local validation and extension of agricultural technologies and innovations on the Eyre Peninsula.

AIR EP, a not-for-profit incorporated association, is the result of a merger between the Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation (EPARF) and the Lower Eyre Ag Development Association (LEADA) farming systems groups, who have been very effective in providing local RD&E outcomes for upper and lower Eyre Peninsula respectively over the past 15 years. By joining forces, the new organisation has created efficiencies in administration and operations, and provides a stronger face for regional RD&E to future funders, partners, members and supporters.

AIR EP is governed by a Board and RD&E activities are driven by members of the Low and Medium Rainfall RD&E Committees and other grower groups across Eyre Peninsula.

AIR EP attracts investment from a range of sources including the Australian and SA Government, Research & Development Corporations, SA Grains Industry Trust plus annual sponsorship and membership fees to facilitate agricultural RD&E activities on Eyre Peninsula.

Vision

A professional, farmer driven organisation that leads RD&E of agricultural technologies and innovations for farmers on the Eyre Peninsula.

Purpose

The AIR EP Board will provide leadership and direction to deliver relevant and innovative, farmer driven RD&E to advance agriculture on Eyre Peninsula.

Core values

Relevance, independence, creativity, respect.

Key priorities

- Effective partnerships
- Investment attraction
- Outcome focussed
- Farmer driven
- Demonstrate leadership
- Capacity and capability building

The organisation will access funds to support projects that address key issues and opportunities that will increase the profitability and resilience of farming businesses in the region.

AIR EP Board Members at 30 June 2024

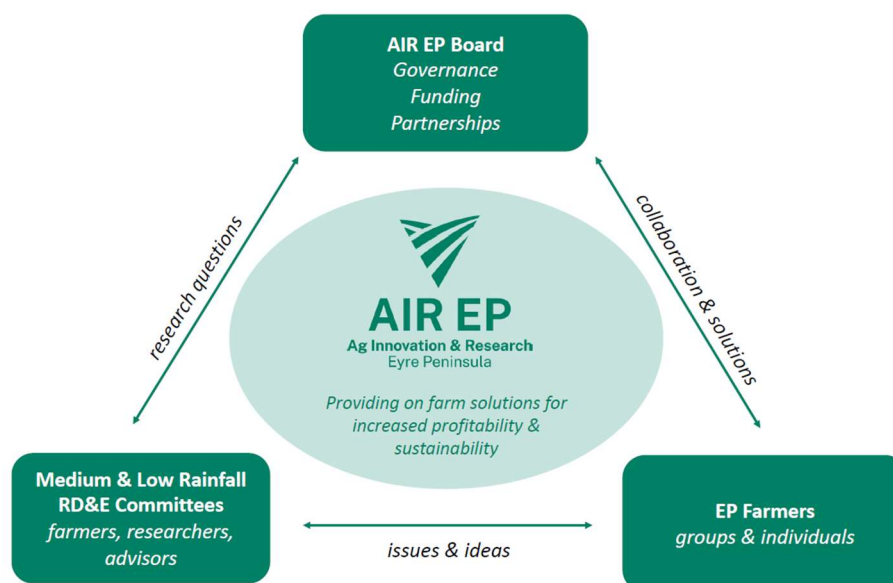


Left to right: Daniel Adams, Ken Webber, Greg Arthur, Bill Long (Chair), Matthew Cook, Mark Stanley (special skills and experience), Greg Scholz (Deputy Chair, Public Officer), Mary Rowe.

Mary Rowe joined the Board in December 2023.

Structure

The AIR EP Board provides governance oversight and sets the strategic direction for the organisation. The Board is supported by two RD&E Committees, one with a focus on the medium rainfall zone (lower EP) and one on the low rainfall zone (upper EP). These committees focus on setting priorities for RD&E investment in the region, reviewing projects and providing input into events for farmers.



Medium Rainfall RD&E Committee at 30 June 2024

Covers lower and parts of Eastern Eyre Peninsula and comprises:

Dan Adams (Chair, AIR EP Board member rep), George Pedler, Billy Pedler, Dustin Parker, Jacob Giles, Denis Pedler, David Davenport, Lochie Siegert, Brett Masters, Daniel Puckridge, Nick Gale.

Low Rainfall RD&E Committee at 30 June 2024

Covers central, eastern and western Eyre Peninsula and comprises:

Symon Allen (Chair), Matthew Cook (AIR EP Board member rep), Andy Bates, Andrew Ware, Rhianon Schilling, Amanda Cook, Daniel Bergmann, Rhys Tomney, Leigh Scholz, Kevin Dart, Chris Lymn, Jarrad Schiller.

Membership

Membership at 30 June 2024 was 275, made up of 1 student member, 72 individual members, 90 business members (up to 10 members per business, counted conservatively as 2 per business for reporting purposes) and 22 sponsor memberships.

Memberships expire at 12 months and can be renewed via the AIR EP website:

<https://airep.com.au/memberships/types/>.

There are three annual membership types:

Individual: \$150 + GST

Business: \$200 + GST (up to 10 members)

Future Farmer: free for school and tertiary students

Note: As of 30 September 2023, memberships run from March to March annually.

Staff

Executive Officer - Naomi Scholz

Finance Officer - Alanna Barns

Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF) - Amy Wright

Sustainable Agriculture Officer - Josh Telfer, finished with AIR EP in December 2023, and commenced working with PIRSA as a Senior Soil Research Officer.

Project Officer – Rebekah Peters

Operations Manager – Rowena Norris commenced with AIR EP on 11 December 2023.



Naomi Scholz

**Executive
Officer**

Board & Corporate Governance,
Human Resources, Insurance,
Project Development &
Management, Contract
Management, Risk
Management



Alanna Barns

**Finance
Officer**

Financial Reporting, Claims &
Reconciliations, Accounts
Payable/Receivable, Finance
Management (Projects), Budgets



Rebekah Fatchen

**Project
Officer**

Project Management, Website
Maintenance, Web Statistics, Event
Logistics & Support, Executive
Support, Asset Management, SAF
Support (0.3)



Amy Wright

**Sustainable
Ag Facilitator**

Stakeholder & Relationship
Management, Project Management &
Reporting, Project Extension, Social
Media, RD&E Committee Support



Rowena Norris

**Operations
Manager**

Annual Membership, Sponsorship,
Governance & Meeting Support,
Project Management, Document
Proofing & Editing, Fleet
Management

SAGIT Grains Research Interns

2021 Rhaquelle Meiklejohn, hosted by EPAG Research

2022 Rebekah Fatchen, hosted by EPAG Research

2023 Elijah Luo, hosted by SARDI Minnipa Ag Centre

2024 Alex Busch, hosted by EPAG Research (pictured below)



Key activities timeline

30 JUNE 2023

Member Days soil and plant nutrition (Cummins, Wudinna) July 2023
Root disease field walk (Rudall) July 2023
GRDC updates for farmers July 2023
ifarmwell workshop (Minnipa) August 2023
Sandy soils masterclasses (Mt Damper, Ungarra, Cummins) September 2023
Lower EP crop walk September 2023
Pulse and Frost field days September 2023
AGM #3 October 2023
Strip and disc forum February 2024
Lower EP Ag Expo February 2024
Facilitation training workshop with Elders February 2024
Lentils on sandy soils workshops (Wirrulla, Wudinna, Lock) March 2024
Rudall Young Farmers session March 2024
GRDC NGN Forums (Ceduna, Wirrulla, Port Kenny, Wangary) March 2024
RiskWiŞe discussion group meetings (Cleve, Lock, Buckleboo, Cootra, Port Kenny) March 2024
Heat stress in sheep webinar via AWI extension network June 2024

30 JUNE 2024



Above: Glenn McDonald presenting on crop nutrition at the AIR EP Member Day in Wudinna in July 2023.



Above: AIR EP Lower EP crop walk September 2023 at the GRDC Farming Systems trial Mark Modra's farm at Edillilie.



Above: AIR EP Ag Expo, Cummins February 2024



Above: Speakers at the SA Drought Hub funded Strip and Disc Forum held at Rudall in February 2024.

AIR EP Projects

At 30 June 2024, AIR EP are currently involved in delivery of 34 projects ranging in value from \$750 to \$1.83m.

Project title	Brief Summary of Project	Funder	Total Budget	Others Involved	Start Date	Finish Date
Development and extension to close the economic yield gap and maximise faming systems benefits from grain legume production in South Australia OR GRDC Legume Extension project UOA2105-013RTX	Delivery of extension activities around 4 pulse sites on EP.	GRDC via SARDI	\$72,000	Sarah Day (SARDI)	1/05/2021	30/06/2025
Managing crown rot on upper EP – a joint learning experience AEP-1022-R	1. Reduce yield losses due to crown rot, so increasing the amount and consistency of grain quantities available for export. 2. Improve the consistency of cereal grain production and the profitability of cereal enterprises on UEP. 3. Increase adoption of existing (used in conventional and novel ways) and novel options for managing crown rot. 4. Improve the ability of farmers and advisors (and researchers) to understand trials and demonstrations and how to interpret the results for application and implementation in local farming systems.	SAGIT	\$150,724	Andrew Ware, Marg Evans	1/07/2022	30/06/2024
Building drought resilience by scaling out farming practices that will enhance the productive capacity of sandy soil landscapes. Activity ID: 4-H6P3CX5	This project will enhance the drought resilience of farmers who manage 3 million hectares of sandy soils in the low-medium rainfall landscape of southeast Australia. This will be achieved through the adoption of practices that enhance the productive capacity of sandy soils by overcoming constraints including water repellence & compacted layers that prevent root growth & access to moisture & nutrients. Practices proven to work in small-scale trials will be scaled-out at 16 demonstration sites to build farmers' confidence across an extensive landscape of the Eyre Peninsula, Upper Yorke Peninsula, Mallee & Southeast regions. Case studies will be used to document outcomes from sites, with this information extended directly to 400 farmers through 17 events implemented by a consortium of grower groups. The project will also disseminate case studies using a digital extension hub & established social media networks to ensure maximum impact with farmers managing sandy soils across Australia.	FDF: Soil & landscape grant & GRDC	\$995,000	SARDI, MFMG, MSF, NSS	1/04/2022	30/06/2024
Building drought resilience with landscape scale remediation of saline land	This project will demonstrate farmer ready management practices that break the cycle of saline land degradation exacerbated by very dry or drought conditions. Two key drivers of soil salinity will be addressed - dry saline land and Mallee seeps that cause lost production in low rainfall broad acre mixed farming landscapes.	MSF via FDF: Soil & landscape grant	\$132,000	Tanja Morgan (MSF)	1/07/2022	30/06/2024

Robust ground cover to enable resilient low rainfall mixed farms	This project will demonstrate, evaluate and communicate farming innovations that are not widely adopted by low rainfall farmers but have been proven in other regions or are close to market. Adoption will build resilient groundcover to protect the natural capital of the 10+ million hectare low rainfall mixed farming region of the Mallee and Eyre Peninsula. While the focus of previous projects has been to ensure groundcover targets are met to minimise soil erosion in dry seasons, this project will also ensure resilient groundcover is maintained to enable farmers to quickly regain production potential when the drought breaks. To maximise project impact, we will deploy an innovative extension and communication program with a unique mix of traditional activities (e.g. field days, workshops, written reports) and new methods through a digital extension hub containing video logs, podcasts and virtual tours and interactive 3D models of sites to connect busy and time poor farmers.	MSF via FDF: Innovation grant	\$303,240	Tanja Morgan (MSF)	1/08/2022	30/06/2024
Promoting best-practice feedbase management to deliver improved drought resilience in low to medium rainfall regions through on-farm demonstrations and case studies	This consortium project will demonstrate the application of best practice pasture management options to deliver enhanced drought resilience. Natural capital will be increased by 1) extending the pasture growing season and 2) increasing the ground cover of pastures to protect soils. This will be achieved by using better-adapted pasture species and mixtures and by implementing best practice technologies in pasture establishment and management.	FDF Soil & Landscape Grant via University of Adelaide	\$57,500	Matt Denton, UoA		31/12/2024
National Risk Management Initiative - Action Research Groups Eyre Peninsula AIP2303-001BGX AIP2405-002BGX	The National Risk Management Initiative (NRMI) is a GRDC initiative extending over five years that aims to understand and improve risk-reward outcomes for Australian grain growers through participatory action research (PAR). Explicitly the NRMI aims to: 1. develop an improved understanding of the risk-reward relationships for important on-farm management practices and decisions, 2. inform growers and their advisers of new insights into managing risks and maximising rewards, and 3. challenge grower decision-making so future management decisions are thought of in terms of probability of upside returns offset against the associated downside risks. In PAR, growers and their advisers will quantify the probabilities of uncertainty of outcomes and assess the risk-reward payoffs for given management decisions in the context of their own farming operations. At the conclusion of NRMI, a suite of extension packages and artefacts (decision support tools) will continue to inform and challenge grain growers, their consultants and advisers to consider farm management decisions as informed by probable rewards (profit \$/ha) and associated probable risks (loss \$/ha).	GRDC	\$1,823,000	CSIRO	1/01/2023	30/12/2027
PROC-9176666 Enterprise choice and sequence strategies that drive sustainable and profitable southern Australian farming systems	By June 2027, at least 80% of growers and advisers in the Southern Grains Region understand the water-limited production potential of their farming systems and the management strategies required to meet new and existing performance frontiers. Growers and their advisers will have a clear indication of the opportunities, financial risk and threats of their crop management decisions for maximising their production profit across rotations.	GRDC via University of Adelaide	\$240,000	Matthew Knowing	1/03/2023	30/06/2027
Eyre Peninsula internship in applied grains research 2024 [AEP 03423]	Intern for 2024 to be hosted by EPAG Research	SAGIT 50% SA Drought Hub 50%	\$66,790	Andrew Ware	1/06/2023	31/03/2025

EP Ag Chats – Connecting Generations of Farmers on Eyre Peninsula G0061	Produce a podcast series of six episodes connecting the younger generation of Eyre Peninsula farmers with the experienced generation of Eyre Peninsula farmers. This would be series 2 of the successful “EP Ag Chats” podcast produced in 2022.	EP Landscape Board	\$12,500	Karly Nimmo	1/07/2023	30/06/2024
UOA2303-006RTX - Effective control of brome grass in the southern and western cropping zones	By May 2027, the economic impact of brome grass will be reduced by 10% across the low rainfall zones of the Western and Southern Regions through the implementation of specific integrated weed management strategies.	GRDC via University of Adelaide	\$90,000	Amanda Cook	1/07/2023	30/03/2028
De-risking the seeding program. Adoption of key management practices for the success of dry early sown crops. 4-IMX2CLR	Dry and early sowing of cereal crops is a practice commonly employed across southern Australian cropping regions to combat the increasingly erratic and delayed opening season rainfall. Whilst there has been a large amount of research and development undertaken on dry and early sowing, significant opportunities remain to engage growers in the adoption of strategic management approaches that best suit local grower needs, management preferences, and local climatic and environmental conditions. This project will see 15 prominent Grower Groups partner with 4 Drought Hubs to deliver a program that accelerates the adoption of strategic dry and early sown crop management approaches. Each group will tailor activities to meet the knowledge, experience, and needs of their member bases and local communities. The project will provide a legacy through developed extension networks, resources, information, and learning groups and see practice adoption across 2 million hectares of arable land.	FDF Extension & Adoption program via Ag Ex Alliance	\$140,000	Amanda Cook	1/07/2023	31/07/2025
Soil CRC Extension (Craig) 1.2.008 Packaging Soil CRC tools to enhance the extension and adoption of improved soil management practices	This project will support four grower groups to critically evaluate their current extension practices used to engage farmers and to identify which extension tools developed in Program 1 of the Soil CRC can be combined to improve the adoption of innovation. Many significant learnings and outcomes have been developed in Program 1 of the Soil CRC that currently sit as disparate outputs, but which are essential in aiding grower groups (and other next users) in extending and communicating information to the farmer (end user). Participating grower groups will design and test four proof-of-concept extension packages that improve project delivery, with the outcome being a series of extension packages that collectively give next users in the Soil CRC (grower groups, advisors, extension officers) a stronger range of tools to better engage the farming community and improve the adoption of the outcomes from all Soil CRC Programs.	Soil CRC with West Midlands Group	\$40,000	Other grower groups: Riverine Plains, CFG	31/10/2023	29/04/2026
Soil CRC Survey (Luke) 1.2.007 – Agricultural Social Benchmarking Surveys – Part 3.	This project considers the actual and intended practice of a broad base of farmers across Australian farming systems. Improved understanding of farmers and their practices in our partner areas, over time, will help the CRC (and the farming groups) to better target their innovations, communications and contribute to their strategic planning. This project is based on a well validated mail-based survey method that has demonstrated its value for extension and intervention planning in rural Australia. We now propose to extend this survey work to repeat the first three surveys.	Soil CRC with Southern Cross Uni	\$500		7/12/2023	5/12/2025

Building farming systems resilience and future proofing the impacts of drought through accelerating the adoption of proven cost-effective and yield responsive soil and fertiliser management practices by farmers across southern Australia 4-IMXQFS0	The project focuses on accelerating adoption of proven soil resource management practices offering significant opportunity to build farming systems drought resilience, reduce yield variability, increase sustainability and profitability. These practices have low levels of adoption, due to a combination of socio-economic and farming systems constraints. Planned interventions will address adoption constraints (as identified through the ADOPT tool https://adopt.csiro.au) at the local farmer group level. A goal of doubling adoption levels and accelerating the peak time to adoption is central to out-scaling strategies. Each farmer group have identified a range of soil management related practices that will form the focus for accelerating adoption through farmers trialing and conducting on-farm demonstrations, sharing experiences and adoption benefits through "peer to peer" learning, and contributing to a dedicated on-line "community of practice innovation platform" for sustained adoption.	FDF Extension & adoption program via MSF	\$90,000	Elders	1/11/2023	1/05/2025
Improving the climate resilience of the Australian Sheep Flock DN4_23_17	Activities reported on for this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.1 Demonstration of practical strategies which improve the fertility of sheep joined during summer • 10.2 Collation and communication of results from management trials • 10.3. Demonstration of the benefits of using dietary betaine to improve sheep fertility during summer, and establish the impacts on their thermoregulation 	SA Drought Hub via Uni of Adelaide	\$8,000	William van Wettere	1/11/2023	15/12/2024
23 SA Eyre Peninsula Coordination	To strengthen drought preparedness and drive local action in the Eyre Peninsula region through the coordination of Community Impact Program activities and evaluation administration	FDF via FRRR Community Impacts Grants	\$30,760		6/11/2023	30/06/2025
23 SA Young Farmer – Facilitated Peer to Peer Learning	To share innovative ways to build drought resilience and build local leadership, networks, and social support In Ceduna and Cleve locations AIR EP will offer four field events for young farmers focussing on young people aged 18-35 years.	FDF via FRRR Community Impacts Grants	\$60,000		6/11/2023	30/06/2025
Virtual Fencing for improved climate resilience on South Australian farms. DN1_23_12	This project will continue the work of initial trials to look at the use of virtual fencing technology in a new field site on the Eyre Peninsula to look at excluding sheep from erodible areas using virtual fencing.	SA Drought Hub via Uni of Adelaide	\$21,000	SARDI MAC	2/11/2023	15/12/2024
Delivery of the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) Role	The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) is a designated central contact point for farmers, landholders, industry, and community groups and will aim to support sustainable agriculture practices in Eyre Peninsula. The SAF role will also perform services that support Regional Capacity Services and other sustainable agriculture related project services.	EPLB	\$604,010		1/03/2024	30/06/2028
A needs analysis for the barriers to adoption of strip and disc systems on Eyre Peninsula [GRDC_23_01]	Identify the risks and opportunities (including a cost benefit analysis) faced by growers using Strip and Disc systems to determine any gaps in knowledge to be addressed for this practice to be adopted in current farming systems. Produce a project needs analysis to direct future investment in RD&E activities for strip and disc farming systems on upper EP, to improve drought resilience for EP farmers.	SA Drought Hub	\$ 61,130	Pinion, Ag Communicators	1/04/2024	31/10/2024

Silicon: a novel solution to reduce water use and pest damage in wheat	Quantify how silicon fertilisation increases water use efficiency and pest resistance in wheat at the field scale with agronomic practices in place, including farm settings with contrasting agricultural landscapes. Elucidate silicon intervention strategies and their benefits for yields relative to input and deployment costs and disseminate this information to farmers. One field trial to be conducted at Minnipa Agricultural Centre, 2024-2026.	Western Sydney University via ARC grant	\$70,444	Cathy Paterson SARDI	20/04/2024	31/12/2026
Further tactics to minimise frost damage on the Eyre Peninsula [AIP2404-001RTX]	Previous frost work on the EP has been well received and has assisted in filling key agronomic knowledge gaps around frost mitigation in crop, however, it has been identified that further gaps in knowledge exist. This project will build on successful work and engagement already conducted on the EP through a number of mechanisms, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and extending tools available for frost management. Continued monitoring of soil amelioration sites for further understanding of the effects of amelioration on frost incidence. Various extension activities including field days and timely pre-season and post frost event workshop activities. This project will be led and developed with AIR EP through involvement of local agronomists, researchers and growers ensuring a holistic and grower ready approach is demonstrated in the trials. This will help to ensure there is increased knowledge and confidence in frost identification and mitigation strategies, reducing potential losses to frost on the EP. 	GRDC	\$302,000	Andrew Ware, Rhaquelle Meiklejohn	30/04/2024	30/04/2027
Retaining soil water in farming systems using strip & disc machinery 2024 [DN1_24_08]	This project would enable one demonstration site to be conducted in low rainfall farming systems at Buckleboo to enable extension of past EP demonstration site results and results from other regions, and to further investigate: What are the measurable differences in stripper stubble vs conventional draper stubble sown using a disc seeding system in lentils? (e.g. plant growth, increased stored soil water in-season, weeds, pests, disease, yield, soil cover, nutrition)	SA Drought Hub	\$40,000	Amanda Cook Katherine Inglis	24/04/2024	31/12/2024
Building resilience - Break Crop Suitability Across Landscapes [DN3_24_07]	Bring together Upper North Farming Systems, Murray Plains Farmers, and AIR EP to bring this common theme across the 3 farming groups and 4 Node regions together into the one project. It is proposed to establish several paddock scale demonstration sites, tailoring each to the needs of the group region. The activities are designed to share information about break crop options and agronomics looking at crop establishment, soil testing (deep N), in crop monitoring, yield and economic analysis, ground cover/stubble residues and benefits for the following crop. Throughout the year information regarding break crop decision making will be shared via the grower groups to their membership and networks by way of communication materials and extension activities, Pinion Advisory will complete economic analysis reports for each site at key decision making points in the season, investigating end use opportunities, harvest results and the flow on effect for the following cropping year.	SA Drought Hub	\$7,000	Amanda Cook, Jade Rose	11/06/2024	15/05/2025
AgRi-Silience business workshops	The program aims to boost the economic, environmental, and social resilience of SA broadacre producers through training that enhances strategic management skills. This helps farmers, farm managers, and employees better manage climate change risks. AgRi-Silience provides funded training in a peer-to-peer setting, helping participants develop or update a Resilience Roadmap or farm business plan. Businesses also receive coaching and one-on-one consulting from experts on specific focus areas.	Livestock SA	\$500	Georgia Trowbridge		

Risky decisions and addressing soil constraints on EP GRDC_24_01 - AIREP	<p>This project has two key objectives that address the priorities of the SA Drought Hub:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arming farmers and advisors with tools to assist in decision making that considers risk and reward, through two major extension events on Eyre Peninsula, directly addressing the SA Drought Hub theme: Farm planning and decision making to manage climate and operational risk. 2. Extending soils information to improve resilience through improved productivity in constrained areas of paddocks, directly addressing the SA Drought Hub theme: Soil and land management strategies, technologies, and innovations. 	SA Drought Hub	\$138,870	Amanda Cook, Kate Burke, Mel Fraser, Stacey Solomon	1/07/2024	31/03/2025
Dr Kate Burke: Resilient Client Relationships	2 x advisor/industry support to farmers workshops on EP.	SA Drought Hub	\$10,000		24/06/2024	31/07/2024
Soil CRC Indicators (Robinson) 2.1.006 - Matching soil performance indicators to farming systems	<p>Share the research invitation to organisation members and associates inviting participation through completion of the indicators survey. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial sharing of the invitation to participate in the survey on signing of the sub-contract. This will be via existing distribution networks used by the partner organisation. • Communication item/s (e.g. email, newsletter, social media or other event) as a reminder in the days/weeks after the initial invitation is circulated. A final notification to members and associates on the closing date of the survey would be optional. • That organisation's liaise with the nominated researchers around the invitation to participate in the survey and utilize and share out the research information as supplied to them by the researchers. 	Soil CRC via Federation University (Nathan Robinson)	\$4,000	nil	18/10/2023	30/11/2023
Eyre Peninsula internship in applied grains research 2024 [SAGIT_23_01]	Intern for 2024 to be hosted by EPAG Research (50% SAGIT, 50% SA Drought Hub funded)	SA Drought Hub	\$66,790	Andrew Ware	1/07/2023	30/06/2024
Tactics to minimise frost damage on the Eyre Peninsula AIP2203-001SAX	<p>Incidence of frost damage on the Eyre Peninsula (EP) in recent years has been increasingly damaging. Growers and advisors on the EP are looking for tactics to avoid, tolerate and/or mitigate frost damage of crops.</p> <p>1 major frost trial site at Tooligie. 3 demonstration sites in central/lower EP (2 x soil amelioration, 1 x zoning management). Discussion groups led by advisors.</p>	GRDC	\$238,000	Andrew Ware, advisors	4/03/2022	30/06/2024
4.2.003: More profitable crops on highly calcareous soils by improving early vigour and overcoming soil constraints.	AIR EP providing in-kind to the project: access to networks for project extension, to the value of \$9000 total. The team is from PIRSA, NSW DPI, AIR EP and MFMG. Outcomes will be modified agronomic practices and improved soil conditions which increase WUE of crops and farm profitability as well as improved knowledge of the impact of high carbonate on crop performance.	Soil CRC	0	Nigel Wilhelm	22/06/2020	31/03/2024
SA Drought Hub: Filling feed gaps [DN5_23_01]	<p>The project aims to improve primary producer decision making around the cost effective and sustainable production of hay and silage, and preparing for drought through best practice feed conservation and storage. The project will be conducted in the Limestone Coast (LC), Fleurieu Peninsula (FP), Kangaroo Island (KI) and Eyre Peninsula (EP) regions.</p> <p>1 fact sheet for EP</p>	SA Drought Hub via MFMG	\$750	Tim Prance	11/04/2023	15/06/2024

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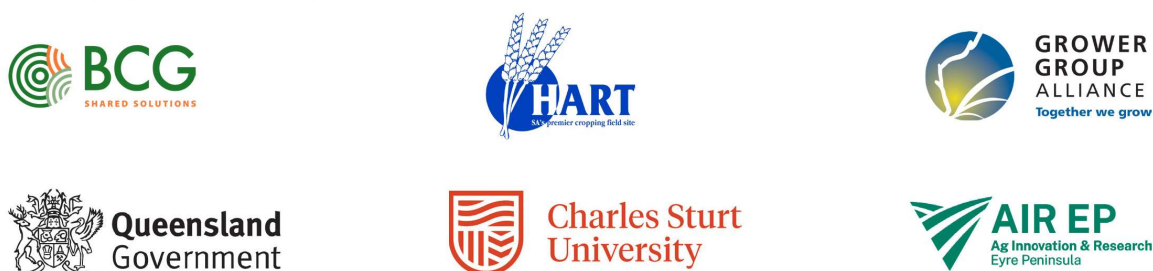
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