



TAS FARM
INNOVATION HUB

Growing Climate Resilient Communities

WHAT IS THE TAS FARM INNOVATION HUB?

The Tasmanian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub – known as the TAS Farm Innovation Hub – is one of eight established across Australia through funding from the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund.

As our climate changes and becomes more variable, we need to build climate resilience into communities, economies and environments at all scales.

Through the hub, people and organisations in the agriculture industry build knowledge to drive innovation in their businesses, care for land and waterways, and enhance community wellbeing to mitigate the increasing risk of drought and other extreme climatic events.

The hub helps Tasmanian farmers, and those who support them, to build valuable relationships and access critical information. Diverse partners and network supporters work together to increase farmers’ access to knowledge and adoption of practices that ensure financial, social and environmental resilience to climate change and variability.

The hub is hosted by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture at the University of Tasmania and delivered through an extensive network of industry and community partners.

OUR VISION

Tasmanian farm businesses and their communities are innovative, resilient, and prepared for the financial, social and environmental opportunities and impacts of climate change and variability.

OUR PURPOSE

Enabling innovation through increased access to knowledge and adoption of practice changes that support our vision.

GET INVOLVED

If you are involved in agriculture in Tasmania and would like to discuss the opportunities for and benefits of engaging with the TAS Farm Innovation Hub, contact us at fdf.tas.hub@utas.edu.au or on (03) 6334 3295.

OUR APPROACH

The hub brings together researchers, farmers, industry, natural resource managers and traditional owners to co-design and implement relevant and innovative solutions.

Current projects include integrating trees into farm plans to improve resilience to drought, investigating soil health sensing technologies, supporting drought and climate resilience in Aboriginal farm enterprises, and enabling our Ag innovators of the future.

WHERE WE WORK

The hub’s operations are based in Launceston and Hobart, at the University of Tasmania’s TIA campuses. Pop-up nodes ensure a presence across Tasmania’s major agricultural regions and the hub has an office at 62 York Street, Launceston, in collaboration with Rural Business Tasmania.

Hub projects are located throughout the state from the Derwent Valley in the south to Flinders Island in the north.

PRIORITY THEMES

1. Farm planning and preparedness

Helping farmers understand their options and develop and implement plans to reduce drought risk, based on locally relevant and accessible data and information.

2. Water

Contributing to a better understanding of catchment-scale water availability, allocations and demand, and farm-scale issues of reliable access and efficient use of water.

3. Landscapes

Building knowledge and skills to increase the health of soil, vegetation and waterways, and measuring on-farm natural capital to support drought resilience.

4. Climate

Supporting an improved understanding of changes in climate and using this information to guide drought preparedness (cross-cutting theme).

5. Community

Building social connections, community leadership and well-being of people and communities (cross cutting theme).



FUNDING

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund is supporting the TAS Farm Innovation Hub through funding of \$12.4 million over 4 years under various grants. Hub partners and the University of Tasmania will provide co-contributions of an amount at least equal to the Australian Government funding over the same period.

PROJECTS

The TAS Farm Innovation Hub is managing the following projects (list current as of February 2023):

Integrating trees into farm plans to improve resilience to drought

Community learning and engagement

Production systems approach to soil ecological restoration

Drought Risk Assessment – Practical management support to build resilience

Enabling Ag Innovators of the future

Integrating digital innovation into Tasmanian oysters

A model for grass-roots biosecurity collaboration in the Derwent

Identifying spare capacity and resources on farm and providing business tools for agritourism diversification

Securing Tasmania's supply chain reputation and product integrity from farm to plate – digital traceability ecosystem

Accelerating adoption of electronic nose technology through on farm demonstration and end user co-development

Creating drought management tools for North West pasture managers

Redesigning grazing for drought resilience

Natural capital and on farm opportunities in the Derwent

Restoring ecosystem functions for drought and extreme weather resilience of agricultural production systems in the Midlands

Strategies to monitor and enhance pollination and pest control at a farm and landscape scale

Best practices for the management of bankside (riparian) vegetation to maximise the benefits for water quality and aquatic health

Supporting drought and climate resilience in Aboriginal farm enterprises

OUR PARTNERS

The hub is proud to work with a diverse network of 25 Industry Partners in collaboration with Project Delivery Partners to deliver our 17 projects on the ground. Through this network, we span the entire breadth of the Tasmanian agriculture sector and can support farmers, agricultural businesses and communities. View the list of partners at www.tasfarmhub.com.au.

HUB TEAM



Director: **Sandra Knowles**, sandra.knowles@utas.edu.au



Deputy Director: **Professor Caroline Mohammed**, caroline.mohammed@utas.edu.au



Operations Manager: **Tony Vaea**, tonyvaea@utas.edu.au



Communications and Strategic Partnerships Manager: **Melissa Lewarn**, melissa.lewarn@utas.edu.au



Senior Industry Development & Extension, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture: **Brian Field**, brian.field@utas.edu.au



Lead Knowledge Broker: **Dr Liana Williams**, liana.williams@utas.edu.au



Research Broker: **Professor Kathy Evans**, katherine.evans@utas.edu.au



Knowledge Broker: **Sophie Folder**, sophie.folder@utas.edu.au



Senior Adoption Officer: **Sue Hinton**, sue.hinton@utas.edu.au



Adoption Officer: **Maria Ortiz Rodriguez**, maria.rodriguez@utas.edu.au



Adoption Officer: **Alex Russell**, alexander.russell@utas.edu.au



Regional Soils Coordinator: **Belinda Nielsen**, bnielsen@nrmsouth.org.au



Project Manager: **Hannah Lewis**, hannah.lewis@utas.edu.au



Projects Coordinator: **Erin Hughes**, erin.hughes@utas.edu.au



Events Coordinator: **Alison Demuth**, alison.demuth@utas.edu.au



Administration Officer: **Renai Skurrie**, renai.skurrie@utas.edu.au



CONTACT US:

www.tasfarmhub.com.au
fd.f.tas.hub@utas.edu.au

More information about the Future Drought Fund:
www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund