

AgriFutures
Rice Program
2020



AgriFutures Rice Program: Advisory panel



AgriFutures Australia



John Harvey
Managing Director



John Smith
General Manager,
Research

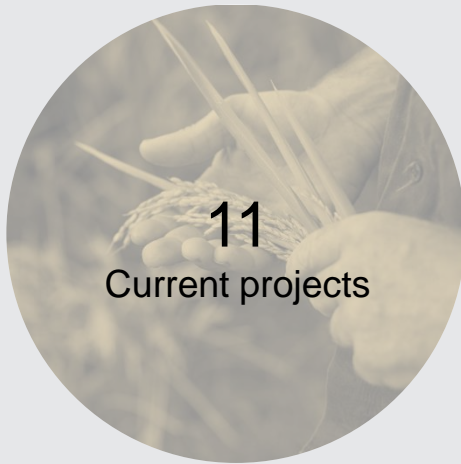


Lucinda Staley
Manager (Rice, Ginger,
Export Fodder)



Laura Skipworth
Coordinator (Rice, Ginger,
Export Fodder)

AgriFutures Rice Program Overview



AgriFutures Rice Program Overview

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The Rice Industry R&D Plan 2016/17-2021/22 identifies four key objectives for RD&E:

- Cross-sectorial research required to achieve the Dry Rice 1.5 t/ML water use efficiency target by 2030.
- Rice breeding – varieties and quality improvement
- Farm productivity – crop inputs, crop protection and the farming system
- Extension, sustainability and human capital.

Spotlight

Significant project investments

Objective 1: Cross-sectorial research required to achieve the Dry Rice 1.5t/ML water use efficiency target by 2030.

Project number	Project name	Start date	End date	Principal investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-012398	Smarter Irrigation for Profit – Phase 2: Key learning sites southern (making the most of water)	1/05/2019	31/12/2022	Alex Schultz	NSW DPI
PRJ-012401	Smarter Irrigation for Profit – Phase 2: Smarter irrigation in rice growing systems	1/05/2019	31/12/2022	John Hornbuckle	Deakin University

Spotlight

Significant project investments

Objective 2: Rice breeding - varieties and quality improvement

Project number	Project name	Start date	End date	Principal investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-009950	Australian Rice Partnership 2	15/06/2015	30/07/2021	Deb Slinger	NSW DPI
PRJ-011067	Traits of importance for aerobic 'DryRice' varieties for the Riverina region	1/07/2018	10/06/2022	Jaquie Mitchell	The University of Queensland

Spotlight

Significant project investments

Objective 3: Farm productivity - crop inputs, crop protection and the farming system

Project number	Project name	Start date	End date	Principal investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-009790	Rice variety nitrogen & agronomic management	1/07/2015	30/07/2021	Dunn, Brian	NSW DPI
PRJ-011058	Improving mid-season nitrogen management of rice	1/08/2018	1/06/2021	Dunn, Brian	NSW DPI
PRJ-011136	Rice Weed Management in Australia	1/07/2018	30/05/2022	Taylor, Malcolm	Agropraisals Pty Ltd

Spotlight

Significant project investments

Objective 4: Extension, sustainability and human capital

Project number	Project name	Start date	End date	Principal investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-010696	Extension for improved efficiency and sustainability in the rice industry	1/02/2018	30/07/2020	Mauger, Troy	RGA
PRJ-010705	Post Graduate 'top-up' Scholarship - C Rixon	1/02/2017	14/08/2020	Rixon, Charissa	Central Queensland University
PRJ-010758	Post Graduate 'top-up' Scholarship - J Opena	1/07/2017	04/12/2020	Opena, Jhoana	Charles Sturt University
PRJ-011075	Rice Industry Leadership Program	6/04/2018	15/08/2020	Massina, Ainsley	RGA

Rice Extension Review

- The program recently underwent a review to determine whether the program is delivering in line with best practice extension principles. The review was an honest assessment of the program, identifying areas that are working well and areas needing improvement.
- The review found that the program is held in high regard, particularly by many rice growers. The team and its activities are seen to be effective in engaging with, and delivering relevant information, to stakeholders.
- Recommendations were made to continue the high standard of the program and will be incorporated into a proposal for the next investment phase of Rice Extension.

Working towards transformational change in the rice industry

- It is clear that significant changes are required for rice to become a more competitive alternative for the limited water resource within summer cropping farming systems
- As a result of a rice industry strategic planning meeting held in December 2019 between AgriFutures, SunRice, RMB and RGA, Agrifutures Australia was tasked with two actions, listed below:
 - Scope breeding options to achieve desired targets of increasing the productivity of Reiziq (grain type), developing a short grain that is resistant to lodging (Koshi quality) and developing low GI quality grain.
 - Investigating emerging technologies for transformational change in the Australian rice industry
- This work is currently underway and will be the focus of the Rice Program over the next 6 – 12 months.

Lucinda Staley

AgriFutures Australia
Manager, Research (Rice, Export Fodder and Ginger)
0448 401 717
Lucinda.staley@agrifutures.com.au

Antony Vagg

AgriFutures Rice Program Advisory Panel
Acting Chair
0437 862 428
antony.vagg@gmail.com



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