



Up-skilling agricultural professionals

THIS CASE STUDY IS ONE IN A SERIES DEVELOPED TO SHOWCASE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY WITHIN THE AREA OF CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION IN THE AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY INDUSTRIES SECTOR.

BY THE PRIMARY INDUSTRIES CLIMATE CHALLENGES CENTRE

A changing climate presents significant challenges to primary industries, governments and people. The ability to adapt is largely dependent on being well informed about climate science, research, emerging policies and potential impacts. With recent extreme climatic events having significant impacts on Australia's agricultural industries, it is clear that a deeper understanding of our climate systems and their potential impact on productiveness and profitability would be of huge benefit to food and fibre producers. In addition to this, growing awareness in the agricultural community of market opportunities in carbon farming has increased the demand for up-to-date knowledge on emissions mitigation options.

Recognising the knowledge gap, the University of Melbourne, collaborated with the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria to develop a tertiary-level education course for professionals connected to food production, agribusiness, forest and resource management. In 2012 the Postgraduate Certificate in Climate Change for Primary Industries enters its fourth year.



The course is now delivered on behalf of the founding partners by the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre (PICCCC) and a team of leading University of Melbourne researchers. It covers climate change science, policy, mitigation, adaptation and economic strategy in relation to agricultural production and aims to up-skill service providers so they can pass on that knowledge to others.

Students from across a wide range of primary industries—dairy, horticulture, forestry, water management, cropping, meat—have passed through the program and are now working directly with farmers, providing advice on profitable and sustainable production in the face of a changing climate.

“The content of this course really appealed to me, as it brought together and formalised the areas of climate change and primary production—something that is not offered elsewhere.”

April Curatolo, North Central Catchment Management Authority

“I came away from the course with a significantly improved understanding of the underpinning science that informs both the climate change debate and analyses of potential risks and opportunities for Victorian landholders.”

David Griffin, Department of Primary Industries Victoria

The program is open to all agricultural professionals with an interest in climate management in agriculture. Service providers from around Australia have now joined the Department of Primary Industries Victoria in building the sector’s capacity to better understand and respond to climate and emissions management issues.

PICCCC is a collaboration between the University of Melbourne and the Department of Primary Industries Victoria.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre

Email: piccc-info@unimelb.edu.au

www.piccc.org.au/education/postgraduate-certificate

Photo Tara Hunt

CCRSPI is a collaborative response to the opportunities and challenges posed by climate change for Australian agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It is a joint initiative of the rural research and development corporations; the state and territory governments; the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; and the CSIRO.