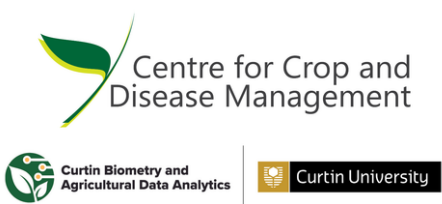




ON-FARM WATER DEMAND

PARTNERS



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IN SHORT

This Food Agility CRC project delivered the first independent, industry-owned assessment of water use for food production in the Warren–Donnelly catchment in Southwest WA.

"This project has demonstrated great value to producers in gathering a defensible dataset on projected water value by commodity and upskilling producers regarding the current technology options to monitor an increasingly scarce resource"

Kieran Kinsella, Southern Forests Food Council

THE CHALLENGE

The Southwest of Western Australia faces major, immediate issues relating to water access for irrigation. The area is impacted by climate change with increasing extreme heat events and decreasing rainfall, particularly during the months from April to October. Forecasts indicate further impact of climate change on vapour pressure deficits and evaporation. Traditionally, water planning has focused on the supply of water. In contrast, this project focuses on the demand side - quantifying how much water is used in food production and the value generated.

OUR APPROACH

This industry-led project enables agrifood producers to link water use with key business drivers, including yield, cost of production and profitability. By providing access to consistent, high-quality data, the project outputs will support improved decision-making at both farm and catchment scales, contributing to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the regional economy. The project has provided seasonal water use data for production of avocados, apples, truffles, wine grapes and potatoes near Manjimup and Pemberton. The data has been aggregated with sub-catchment scale land use, landform data and weather observations to estimate actual water use at a scale equivalent to water supply calculations.



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