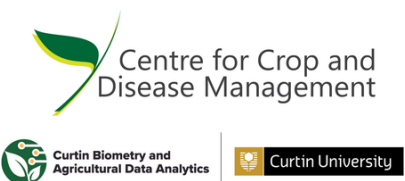




ON-FARM EXPERIMENTATION

PARTNERS



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IN SHORT

This Food Agility CRC project helped WA grains farmers make the most of their farm data, with an experimentation platform underpinned by new spatial analysis methods.

“This project addressed in-paddock spatial variability, which has long been a barrier to large scale trials. It has resulted in greater insight into paddock management zones, supporting targeted production systems, and driving productivity and profitability.

Tanya Kilminster, Grower Group Alliance

THE CHALLENGE

Grain farmers have access to large amounts of their own data, are aware of its value but are often unable to realise it. While digital technologies and data management systems offer great promise for the future of on-farm decision making, there are many barriers to adoption, including the digital divide. As such, many farmers make management decisions based on strip trials and yield monitor data. Growers have trialled altering input rates or frequencies for specific plots, but have lacked the means to precisely analyse the data that comes from these trials, which does not account for the spatial variability of crop production.

OUR APPROACH

Farmers, agronomists, researchers, and technologists worked hand-in-hand in this three-year project to develop grower-driven experimentation and test the On-Farm Experimentation Platform. The OFE Platform, developed by NGIS, uses new spatial analytics methods that help farmers translate outcomes from experiments on small plots across the paddock to maximise return on investment for fertiliser. Using this platform, team supported farmers to run 50 paddock-scale trials focussing mostly on fertiliser inputs. This provided an estimate on the return on investment of input costs and seasonal risk, giving farmers and their agronomists greater confidence to implement new fertiliser strategies.

