

COOL SOIL INITIATIVE

PARTNERS

MARS

Charles Sturt University

MANILDRA GROUP
100% AUSTRALIAN OWNED

ALLIED PINNACLE

SUSTAINABLE FOOD LAB

CORSON

IN SHORT

This Food Agility CRC project delivered a farmer-centric, scientific credible and robust framework to support cropping farmers reduce their GHG emissions.

"Through this project, we can do our part in identifying opportunities to slow the pace of climate change. The soil tests performed as part of the project allow us to identify and ameliorate problems and hopefully boost production."

Craig and Fiona Marshall, Bull Plain Farming

THE CHALLENGE

As part of their 'Sustainable in a Generation' plan, Mars has been working to improve sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to assist in building resilience in key supply chains. As Mars continues to work on reducing its factory GHG emissions, it has identified that over half of its emissions happen upstream from manufacturing sites. The cropping sector has recognised that nutrient inputs have increased to maintain yields, due to depletion of soil fertility and organic matter. As a result, improving soil health is one of the top three production issues that farmers say will affect their farm in the future.

OUR APPROACH

The Cool Soil Initiative developed a scientifically credible framework for the food industry to support cropping farmers achieve both sustainable production and reduce GHG emissions. Using data analysis and digital solutions coupled with research, the focus was to identify innovative agronomic strategies to increase soil health and related function and support their trial and adoption. The project had to meet global and Australian protocols for emission data capture and sustainability reporting to ensure its relevance and impact. This included delivering a version of the Cool Farm Tool modified for Australian cropping systems, aligned to the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

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foodagility

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Cooperative Research Centres Program