



Research Directions

Office of Research Services

A Gain for Grain Farmers

Professor Peter Cornish and Ms Deborah Atkins, School of Natural Sciences, have received funding from the Natural Heritage Trust to improve water quality in Australian grain farming catchments. The project will assist farmers to implement the results from previous research into environmental best management practices.



Previous research on environmental best practice funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation Liverpool Plains, NSW.

‘The research will involve farmers from Northern New South Wales to Central Queensland via Conservation Farmers (Inc.) and a team of technical specialists’ said Professor Cornish. ‘The project will generate on-farm management changes, by working with farmers to adapt practices recommended from previous research to reduce herbicide contamination in waterways’.

Field days and information packages targeting farmers will be developed showing practical examples of new farming operations. Information on alternative ways of maintaining weed control and practical ideas will be given to suit each farmer’s needs and the types of machinery they use. Education packages will also be developed with farmers to be used with environmental farm management students at university and TAFE.

Professor Cornish says ‘The project highlights that, contrary to common opinion, farmers are interested in environmental outcomes but need practical steps and a sound process to support change’.

The project’s success will be seen in the extent of the adoption of farming practices that are both profitable for grain farmers and reduce runoff affecting aquatic ecosystems.

Project Title: *A communication project to assist grain farmers put into action environmental best management practice to maintain sustainability & improve water quality in grain farming catchments.*

Funding has been set at: \$168,300.

June 2006.

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