



ORD RIVER IRRIGATION AREA GROWER TOUR: KUNUNURRA 2016

Year: 2016

Funding Provider:
GRDC

Lead Organisation:
Liebe Group

Collaborators
Liebe Group members

Location:
Kununurra Region, WA

Aim:

This project aimed to investigate the farming systems in the Ord River Irrigation Area in Kununurra, Western Australia, in an effort to identify major threats and weakness to farming systems in the face of climate volatility and increased frequency and severity of droughts, and understand how innovative practices can be implemented, or developed to fit, NAR farming systems.

Project Information:

Over the few decades years, growers in the Liebe Group region have experienced numerous below average rainfall seasons including four severe droughts. To remain profitable, it is important to identify that achieving sustainable farming systems in an increasingly volatile climate requires strategic and proactive R&D. The process identifies major threats and weaknesses to farming systems in order to develop a strategy that assists farmers in these issues.

PROJECT FUNDERS



Farming systems, such as those implemented in the Ord irrigation area, typify situations where growers demonstrate high levels of innovation to overcome numerous on-farm issues in volatile conditions.

REPORTS & LINKS

Tour Debrief Article

While systems in the Ord area are different to the Northern Agricultural Region (NAR) of WA, growers face similar agronomic, management and marketing challenges, giving them a chance to critically analyse their own production systems.

The key learning objectives found from the tour were:

- Compare and contrast alternative farming systems
- Define critical success factors in alternative farming systems
- Processes and challenges in developing new crops
- Recognise the importance of strategic thinking in innovation

The tour enabled 16 Liebe Group members to visit and observe several Ord River Irrigation Area growers pioneering a food industry in a hostile Kimberley environment, to provide external insight into how our own farming community could expand our knowledge and apply it to our local farming systems.