Indigenous Agriculture Development Project (IADP)
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INTRODUCTION

NT Farmers are the trusted and effective representative for farmers in the Northern Territory. They support and represent established and emerging agribusiness through effective advocacy, driving research, development, extension, marketing, and member and stakeholder engagement and services. The Indigenous Agriculture Development project’s (IADP) is proposed to assist Traditional Owner groups entering into the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries. The development of a broadacre industry within the Northern Territory presents some real and available business opportunities for Traditional Owners.

Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves gives significant opportunity for the development of successful businesses on the Indigenous Land Estate. The project would be one of inclusion and working with Traditional Owners through the entire process from concept to realization of the development. This would include expert advice, advocacy and identification of training and skills gaps and ensuring these gaps are mitigated through a tailored suite of training measures.

SCOPE OF WORK

Traditional Owners, Indigenous stakeholders, potential investment partners, Land Councils and all levels of government are encouraged to assist Indigenous landowner groups to become engaged in the agriculture sector in greater numbers. No two projects will be identical and will be tailored to suite the aspirations of land holders. The scope of projects could include joint ventures, wholly Indigenous enterprises, employment outcomes and land leases.
INDIGENOUS FOOD FUTURES

A key component of the project is the development of an ‘Indigenous Food Futures’ network that would provide targeted educational field days on Country to assist Traditional Owners to understand what is possible and the processes required. The Food Futures network will be supported by a detailed communications strategy and culturally appropriate personal development and governance capacity building.

It would be expected that this project would result in a mosaic of agricultural land across the Indigenous estate over the coming years. Through a dedicated resource this opportunity will be enhanced, and NT Farmers are able to support this with a team of experts across all key components of the agriculture sector, including: agronomy, water use, work force development, marketing and governance.

The key feature of this project is to mentor, advocate and identify opportunities for Traditional Land Holders and to act as the conduit for land holders throughout the entire process. In addition, a dedicated resource will be available to ensure business continuity and profitability is achieved.

MENTOR, ADVOCATE AND IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES
BACKGROUND

Agriculture has long been a key economic pillar of the Northern Territory, although in general terms Indigenous Territorians have not benefited from this development. With significant parcels of suitable land and access to Indigenous Water Reserves on the Indigenous Estate, opportunities are clearly deliverable. NT Farmers represents Broadacre Cropping, Fodder Production, Horticulture, Forestry and the Buffalo Industry, all these industry sectors offer great potential for Indigenous participation.

Agricultural land-use has been limited on Indigenous Land in the past but is poised to expand as interest in cotton, forestry and industrial hemp production in the NT increases. Agricultural irrigation is traditionally on a much larger scale than horticulture and is a larger component of production costs.

Irrigated agriculture in the NT will use a mixture of underground water and surface capture to produce high value agricultural crops. Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves play a critical role in the development of these industries. Water use efficiency and precision farming practices will be critical to the economic success of irrigated farming in the North. These technologies are well established in southern growing systems and can be used very effectively from the start of any irrigated agricultural enterprise with the correct support.

This project will build on information developed through an exhaustive consultation process of key stakeholders that all agree, currently a gap exists in assisting Indigenous Agricultural Enterprises become established.
METHODOLOGY

- Desk top review existing research/data Top End.
- Establish a qualified and engaged steering and/or reference committee (from stakeholder groups).
- Extension and Relationship building to create an open and transparent dialog.
- Accessing commercially available opportunities.
- Building capacity in business and regulation skills.
- Monitoring and evaluation plan to establish baseline information.
- Communicating success stories in a culturally sensitive manner.
- Conduct regular audits to monitor improvements in participation.
- Integrating information from Land Councils, Governments and other key stakeholders to be useable and understandable information for Traditional Owner groups.
- Regular feedback and discussion meetings.
- Build depth of knowledge in Agronomy/Forestry/Fisheries.
- Governance and leadership mentoring.
- Land management and biosecurity capacity building.
- Actively engage Traditional Owners' business and land management planning and development processes.
MEASURABLES

NETWORKS
Increase knowledge transfer and skills gaps through the Indigenous Food Futures Network.

Bi-annual Indigenous Food Futures conference and regular Food Futures Roadshow events.

Linking partners and investors to create opportunity.

1,000+ ATTENDEES

SOCIALS
Regular updates on NT Farmers social media channels.

2,500+ FOLLOWER

DIGITAL
Development of a website with bilingual video and resources.

Biosecurity training and awareness.

1,000+ VIEWS

ENGAGEMENT
Engage Indigenous Organisations across all agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

10 PROPOSED

COMMUNICATION
Communication of project activities and developments through regular articles in the NT Farmers GROW NT magazine and eNews, with a current contact list of 550.

Creation of a dedicated Indigenous Food Futures communications strategy.

550 REACH

STATISTICS
Regular agriculture and water regulation updates.
OUTPUTS
Web based Growers stories and virtual farm tours highlighting Indigenous enterprise. Best Practice development and planning. Workshops and meetings through Indigenous Food Futures brand. Benchmarking data available for industry. Ranges of opportunities available and matching enterprise development, such as:
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Buffalo
- Fisheries
- Complimentary agricultural contracting services. Regular mentoring and onsite auditing.

LINKAGES
The Indigenous Agriculture Development Project has several potential linkages with current and future NT Farmers activities and projects, these include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELATIONSHIPS</th>
<th>PROJECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NT Government</td>
<td>Cotton development project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centrefarm</td>
<td>Forestry development project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)</td>
<td>Buffalo Industry development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centre Land Council (CLC)</td>
<td>WACs representation across NT</td>
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<td>Northern Land Council (NLC)</td>
<td>NTG water policy and regulatory reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin University (CDU)</td>
<td>VegNet 2 - Improved Vegetable Production systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Land Councils</td>
<td>Territory Legends program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Land Sea Economic Development Agency (ALSEDA)</td>
<td>Ag Inspirations program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NT Isolcared Children’s and Parents Association</td>
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<td>Regional Development Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hort Innovation</td>
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</table>
## BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Per year</th>
<th>3 year project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Delivery</strong></td>
<td>Senior Development officer</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication Officer</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
<td>Vehicle lease + expenses</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NT travel and accom</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interstate travel and accom for Irrigation Conferences and Industry upskilling</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Support &amp; Governance</strong></td>
<td>Meetings and demonstration</td>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Project and financial management</td>
<td></td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Comms</strong></td>
<td>Website development &amp; social media</td>
<td>$5,200</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information product development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Translating and publishing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Field Activities</strong></td>
<td>Field activities, including contractor, equipment hire</td>
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<td>$30,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Water monitoring and scheduling and soil moisture monitoring equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Software and data systems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$763,000</td>
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**TIMELINE**

**2020**
- Project commence.
- Commence recruitment process.
- Deliver Detail Project Plan to all key funding stakeholders.
- Funding provider meetings.
- On-Ground activities commence.

**2021**
- Stakeholder meeting & Milestone Reporting Annual.
- Indigenous Food Futures Major Conference.
- Field program review and planning for next year’s activities.

**2022**
- Stakeholder meeting & Milestone Reporting Annual.
- On-Country activities.
- Field program review and planning for next year’s activities.

**2023**
- Stakeholder meeting & Milestone Reporting Annual.
- On-Country activities, farm audits, benchmarking.
- Field program review and planning for next year’s activities.
SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS
- Established leading organisation
- Food Future event tried and tested
- Strong existing partnerships and ability to establish new connections
- Demand for Indigenous led programs
- Increases Indigenous labour force
- Offers training and education for Indigenous Australians
- Build relationships across industry sectors
- Develops Northern Australia for future industries

OPPORTUNITIES
- Increased opportunities for Indigenous participation
- Increase in community understanding of opportunities in agriculture
- Tailored development opportunities and mentoring
- Specific skills development
- Adoption of ‘Best Practice Farming’ systems
- Engagement by wider industry and stakeholders
- Participation by Traditional Owners’ farms in business improvement programs
- Increased participation in land development
- Changes in Traditional Owner perceptions of agriculture.
- Agriculture and Horticulture driving positive social change in communities

WEAKNESSES
- Lack of funding
- Clear alliance with organisations

THREATS
- Lack of funding for future growth of the project
- Red tape
- Restrictive linkages