



NT FARMERS



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

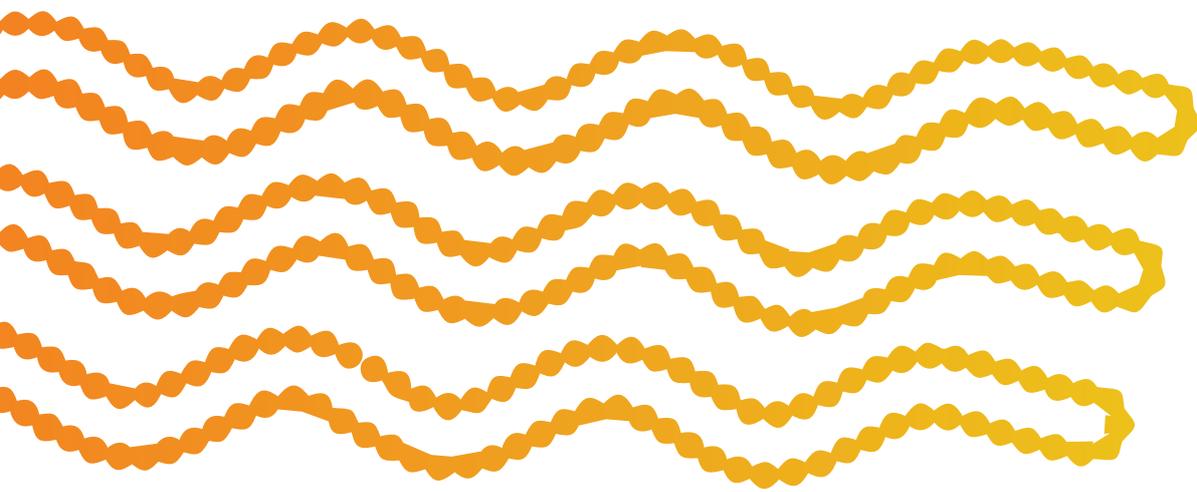
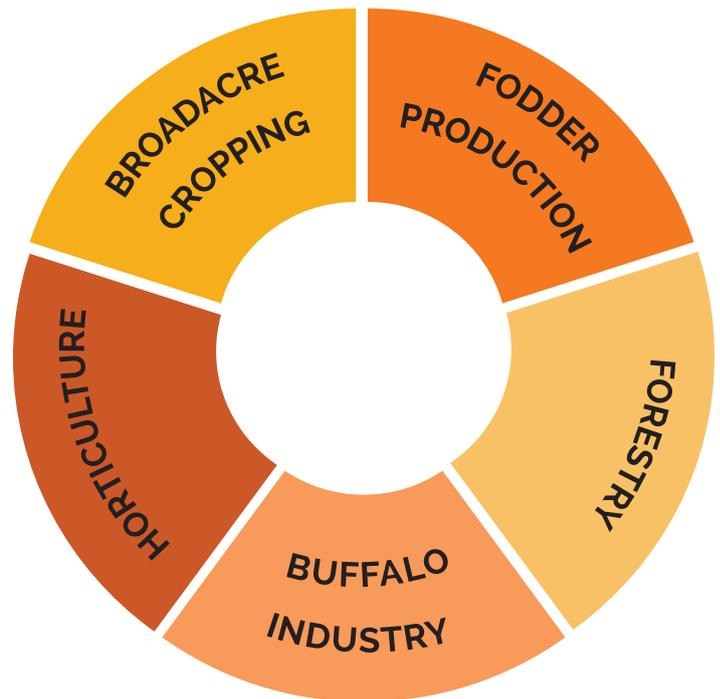
BACKGROUND

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

ENGAGEMENT

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

10 PROPOSED

DIGITAL

Development of a website with bilingual video and resources.

Biosecurity training and awareness.

1,000+ VIEWS

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.

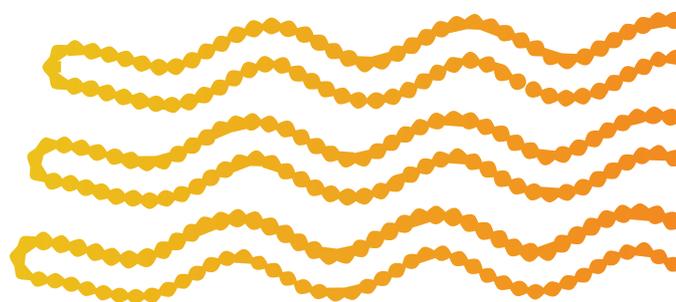
Workshops and meetings through Indigenous Food Futures brand.

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:

RELATIONSHIPS	PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT Government • Centrefarm • Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) • Centre Land Council (CLC) • Northern Land Council (NLC) • Charles Darwin University (CDU) • Aboriginal Land Councils • Aboriginal Land Sea Economic Development Agency (ALSEDA) • NT Isolated Children's and Parents Association • Regional Development Australia • Hort Innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton development project • Forestry development project • Buffalo Industry development • WACs representation across NT • NTG water policy and regulatory reform • VegNet 2 - Improved Vegetable Production systems • Territory Legends program • Ag Inspirations program

BUDGET

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

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

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of funding
- Clear alliance with organisations

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

THREATS

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

