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South-West WA
Drought Resilience Adoption
and Innovation Hub

2022 Western Australian Colleges of Agriculture Drought Resilience and Innovation Challenge

The [South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub](#) (SW WA Hub) aims to improve the drought resilience and preparedness of local farmers and their communities, and to foster agricultural innovation.

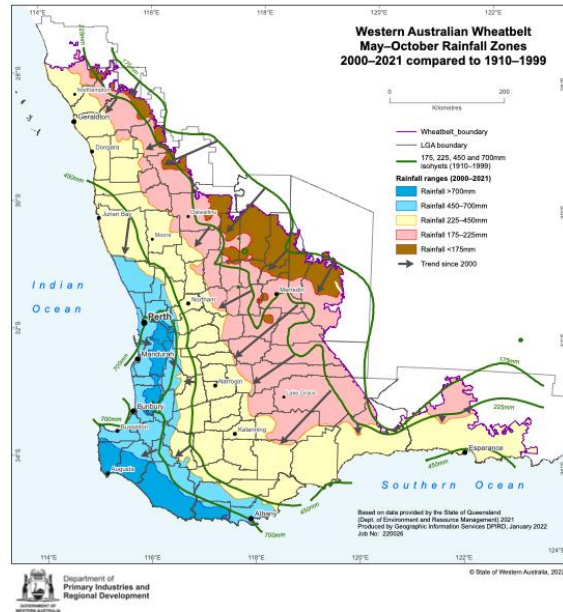
Led by the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), a state-wide network of more than 60 local grower groups, the SW WA Hub is driving greater innovation 'from the ground up'. Grower groups are among the SW WA Hub's more than 50 consortium partners, which represent all sectors of the WA agricultural supply chain.

This focus on collaboration, which extends to students from secondary schools and university, will enable the SW WA Hub to make agricultural research impactful and accessible, increasing innovation opportunities to meet the challenges of a changing climate.

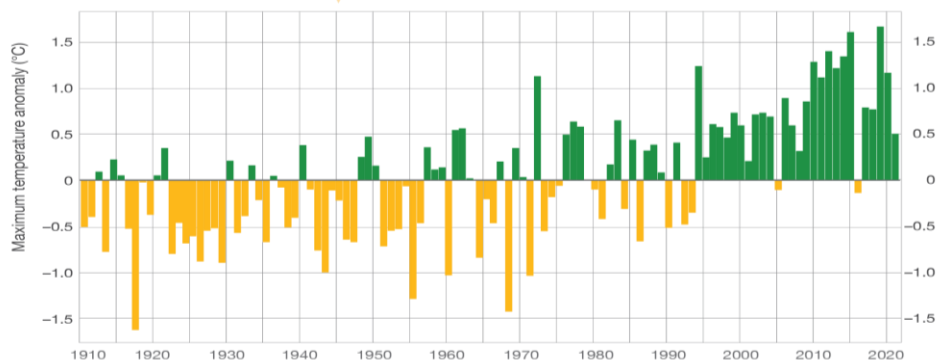
The SW WA Hub invites all five Colleges of Agriculture to participate in a Drought Resilience and Innovation Challenge to investigate real-life industry issues in agriculture and to develop possible solutions.

Background:

Australian farmers are dealing with a drying and warming environment which reduces their productivity and profitability. Since 1970, rainfall from May to July over WA's South-West region (covering the entire agricultural region south of the Pilbara) has been about 20 per cent less than the average from 1900 to 1969. Rainfall is very likely to continue decreasing under all future climate modelling scenarios.



Since 2000, the amount of heat during flowering and grain fill (August–October) has increased.



Annual maximum temperature anomaly in South-West Australia (1910 – 2021), source [Bureau of Meteorology State of the Climate 2020 report](#)

Some existing approaches by farmers to increase resilience to climate variability include farm business management; use of data to understand risks and improve decision making; new farming practices, technologies and diversification; and succession planning and management of people and time.

Applying:

Individuals or teams up to a maximum of three students may apply to answer the follow question:

What is an innovative tool, solution or systems change that will increase the future economic, environmental and social resilience of WA farm businesses in a hotter and drier climate with more variability?

Solutions are to target: a WA region of the South-West (covering the entire agricultural region south of the Pilbara), an agricultural industry or a farming system.

Teams should research and present their case, please read through the Situation Analyses for the agroecological region you would like to target (refer resources section at the end of this document) and refer to the real-life Regional Priority Project ideas.

Presentations of the solutions can include the use of social platforms such as TikTok and YouTube, webpages, podcast, a written or live presentation. The inclusion of local data is encouraged. Written presentations must be 1500 words or less and presentations not more than 10 minutes.

Timing:

The pilot Drought Resilience and Innovation Challenge will run from week four to seven Term 4. A staff member support students and reference check data.

Submissions are due at the end of week seven with presentations during week eight.

Presentations will take place on school campus or via video conference. Presentations will be judged on: originality; scientific merit; and value to farmers and the agricultural industry.

The assessment panel shall consist of one Hub member, a farmer nominated by the school and the relevant principal of the College.

Prizes:

The winning team from each school will be awarded vouchers to the following value:

First	\$500
Second	\$350
Third	\$150

In this pilot year, if more than one school participates, the winning group from each school will showcase their solution at an event (TBC) with all participating WA Colleges of Agriculture Schools later in 2022. The overall winner from this event will win a further \$500 to go towards new technology for the winning school.

The assessment panel for this inter-school challenge to judge the overall winner will consist of one Hub member, Kay Gerard (Food Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council) and Sally Panizza (Director, Agricultural Education at the Department of Education).

The winning solution will be showcased in the local program for the 2023 Future Drought Fund National [Science to Practice Forum and presented in-person at a WA industry event \(TBC\)](#).

Enquires:

Please contact Tanya Kilminster, Knowledge Broker SW WA Hub, GGA

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Related documents the Southwest Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub:

[Grower Group Alliance SW WA Drought Hub webpage](#)

[Southern Rangelands Situation Analysis](#)

[Midwest and Gascoyne Coastal Situation Analysis](#)

[Wheatbelt Situation Analysis](#)

[Southwest Situation Analysis](#)

[Regional Priority Project ideas](#)

Other related documents:

[Farm business management](#)

[Data to understand risks and improve decision making](#)

[Farming practices](#)

[Farm diversity](#)

[Climate Services for Agriculture](#)

[Climate Kelpie](#)