



August (Winter) 2010, 1 page

NEW RURAL INDUSTRIES FOR FUTURE CLIMATES

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

By B. Cullen, P. Thornburn, E. Meier, M. Howden and S. Barlow
RIRDC Pub. No. 10/010

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At a Glance

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- ❖ Higher temperatures, increased evaporation, more variable rainfall and increased extreme climatic events are predicted to impact on agricultural output in Australia.
- ❖ These climatic changes have the potential to alter the mix of agricultural industries in Australia.
- ❖ A number of current agricultural industries are expected to be strongly challenged by predicted climate change. However, climate change is also expected to open up new opportunities for a range of new rural industries.
- ❖ Crops that may be more suited include olives, jojoba, pomegranates, capers, dates, mustards, tree crops and Australian bush foods.
- ❖ This publication outlines many of these new rural industries suited to Australia's changing climate across six different climate regions, and provides advice to farmers on diversifying their operations.
- ❖ Many of these new industry options have a competitive advantage over existing agricultural industries in warmer and drier future environments, due to their drought tolerance, salinity tolerance, water use efficiency and resilience to low irrigation water availability.
- ❖ Diversifying on-farm operations by producing a range of crops planted at different times is an effective way to reduce the risk associated with extreme climate events.