DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES
PRIMARY INDUSTRY DIVISION
REPORTING ON THE

Northern Territory
Agribusiness Industry Strategy

FEBRUARY 2012
# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

## OBJECTIVE 1: PROFITABLE AND PRODUCTIVE AGRIBUSINESS

**Growing the industry with the right products and systems**

### 1.1 Expand market options for Territory products

#### 1.1.1 Review existing markets and identify further opportunities (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Instigated a whole-of-government approach for dealing with the impacts of the live export trade suspension on Northern Territory (NT) live export industries.
- Directly assisted industry with the placement of a departmental officer in the Northern Territory Cattleman’s Association (NTCA) office during the suspension.
- Convened a forum with key stakeholders in the live export industry to determine future potential market opportunities.
- Collaborated with the Department of the Chief Minister (DCM) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) to develop live cattle trade to Vietnam through the provision of feasibility studies, technical advice and training in animal handling and feedlot management resulting in the first shipment to Vietnam for many years.
- To underpin existing markets and develop further opportunities, together with industry, visited Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam. The trip proved successful in continuing to build on existing relationships and promoting the NT as a supplier of choice.
- Collaborated with commercial agribusiness partners to evaluate potential plant industry enterprises in the Territory, for example, dates, papaya and banana.

#### PLANNED 2012

- Continue to work cross-agency and cross-jurisdiction to mitigate the ongoing impacts of the live export trade suspension on NT live export business enterprises, including delivery of the Australian Government’s Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme.
- In conjunction with the NTCA co-host a live export risk evaluation workshop with key industry stakeholders.
- Expand Markets for NT Live Cattle and Horticultural products in South East Asia
  - Undertake primary and secondary market research to prioritise and select Asian markets that offer export growth opportunities
  - Identify current and potential production capabilities for the products that have been prioritised.
  - Engage with producers and other value chain businesses that are interested in exporting to form international supply chain alliances.
- On the basis of positive market signals continue to provide technical assistance to new live export markets in Vietnam, the Philippines and continue to explore collaborative project with East Kalimantan.
- Continue to collaborate with commercial agribusiness partners to evaluate potential plant industry enterprises in the Territory.
### 1.1.2 Analyse the feasibility of proposed products and markets (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Completed preliminary review of the NT Fodder/Hay value chain.
  - Continue and publish Fodder Industry Survey. Commence priority activities identified in the survey.
- Continued cattle and buffalo genetic improvement programs to increase marketing opportunities for NT cattle and buffalo.
  - Continue cattle and buffalo cross-breeding programs to produce livestock with greater diversity in market suitability.

### 1.1.3 Extend the information to stakeholders (DoR)

- Hosted live export forums in Darwin and maintained active dialogue with NTCA, Northern Territory Livestock Exporters’ Association (NTLEA) and peak industry bodies.
  - Co-host risk evaluation workshop and provide report of outcomes to the government.

### 1.2 Increase capacity to develop market and production intelligence

#### 1.2.1 Review and improve methods of gathering market and production intelligence (DoR)

- Commenced the five-yearly NT wide Pastoral Industry Survey to document current state of the NT cattle industry and gain vital input into effective extension services and direction to future research and development activities.
- Completed the creation of a Tropical Selection Index to assist NT producers to select bulls that best match the requirements of the south-east Asian live export market.
  - Finalise one-on-one producer interviews and conduct data analysis with the completion of the whole of Territory regional reports.

#### 1.2.2 Benchmark performance against industry best practice (DoR)

- Completed data collection for three major projects CashCow, Live Weight Gain and heifer fertility to investigate reproductive loss and fertility improvements and variability in growth rates of young cattle.
  - Complete final reports for the Cash Cow and Live Weight Gain projects to MLA by June 2012.
  - Develop an analytical toolkit for investigating and identifying drivers of live weight gain in individual NT herds.

#### 1.2.3 Extend the information to stakeholders (DoR)

- Arranged and hosted the 2011 Northern Beef Research Update Conference with two keynote speakers and 22 poster presentations by departmental staff.
  - Continue to present at conferences, extension forums and field days.
1.3 Develop and promote more efficient and environmentally sound production systems

### 1.3.1 Improve production systems through on-farm innovation (DoR)

#### Mango:
- Provided research, development and extension (RD&E) services to assist the increase of fresh mango exports by 300% in nine years.
- Developed an agreed strategy with industry leaders to expand the mango production window.
- Commenced long-term genetic improvement activities.

#### Mahogany:
- Demonstrated potential for 30% increase in productivity capacity of elite clonal selections of Mahogany over seedling plants seven years after planting.

#### Vegetables:
- Provided RD&E services to develop best practice production systems. Introduced an integrated disease management for long bean production.

#### Amenity Horticulture:
- Worked with industry partners on closed production systems for ornamental ginger production to improve economic viability.

#### Mango:
- Continue to provide RD&E services to assist the increase of fresh mango exports by a further 300% in nine years.
- Continue long-term genetic improvement activities.
- Commence research programs to manipulate physiological behaviour of a mango plant.
- Commence plant protection strategies to reduce reliance on use of pesticides.

#### Mahogany:
- Identify agribusiness partners to capitalise on the genetic resource in mahogany developed in the past research activities.

#### Vegetables:
- Continue to work with Asian vegetable growers to improved production practices.
- Develop strategies to minimise impact of wilt in melons to ensure industry viability.
- Support the development of new and emerging fruits crops such as rambutan through consolidation and evaluation of genetic resources.

#### Amenity Horticulture:
- Continue developing closed pot-culture systems for growing ornamental gingers.

| Undertook breeding research projects including cattle, multi breed composites and buffalo for genetic improvement and increased fertility and productivity. | Undertook breeding research projects for cattle, multi breed composites and buffalo. |
| Undertook grazing systems research including cell grazing at Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF), Climate Clever Beef, Northern Grazing Systems and Old Man Plains (OMP) projects to identify, evaluate and demonstrate practices that will optimise sustainable business performance. | Continue grazing systems trials at DDRF and OMP and the Climate Clever Beef and Northern Grazing System projects both due for completion in June 2012. |
| Completed final reports of five years of heifer fertility research and heifer management demonstrations. | Publish a technical guide on options for improving and maintaining pastoral land condition and animal performance in the Alice Springs Region. |
| Commenced a phosphorus research project at Brunchilly Station to develop a diagnostic test for phosphorus deficiency and to investigate the cost effectiveness of phosphorus supplementation. | Continue research to increase fertility, productivity and efficiency of NT cattle. |
| In partnership with the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) for Remote Economic Participation continued delivering the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project. | Continue the phosphorus project at Brunchilly Station through until May 2013. |
| Implementation of the approved Precision Pastoral Management Tools project including establishment of five producer demonstration sites. | |
* Contributed to the development of the National Research and Development Framework as a means of improving the efficiency of R&D through increased collaboration and a national approach to research planning and management.
* Contributed to the preparation and implementation of five national R&D sector strategies (Beef, Forestry, Grains, Horticulture, New & Emerging Industries) and four cross-sectoral strategies (Climate Change, Biofuels, Animal Welfare, Water in Agriculture). DoR was joint leader of the team preparing the New & Emerging Industries strategy.

1.3.2 Analyse supply chains to inform research and development priorities (DoR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market access protocols that require no disinfestations treatments.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue research strategies that demonstrate mango at mature green are a non-host of fruit fly to reduce costs within the supply chain and maintain greater fruit quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivered post-harvest management strategies for mangoes to increase shelf life beyond 20 days to allow greater flexibility in market supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapped Asian vegetable supply chains to identify practices that were impacting on fruit quality in the Sydney market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market access protocols that require no disinfestations treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue research strategies that demonstrate mango at mature green are a non-host of fruit fly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate at a national level to assist industry to gain internationally recognised Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for a new fungicide to enable its use in the mango post-harvest disease management strategy to improve market access to a number of importing countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determine physiological factors impacting on post-harvest fruit quality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working on cool chain technologies for the snake bean and okra growers to minimise fruit losses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.3 Develop capacity in value chain analysis (DoR)

| As indicated at 1.1.2, base level capacity has been developed and demonstrated. |

1.3.4 Extend the information to stakeholders (DoR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delivered Primary Industries technical information in a useable form through Agnotes, Technical Bulletins, best practice manuals and research reports, including the Annual Research Achievements Report. Approximately 900 publications were available during the year.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivered outcomes from R&amp;D activities through conferences, industry forums, field days, paddock walks, workshops, training activities, producer demonstration sites, information packages and newsletters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Production ran or participated in seven conferences, industry forums, field days and paddock walks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided sustainable carrying capacities for new enterprises and properties under development or sub-division.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review and update Primary Industries publications to ensure that the latest research and technical information is available to stakeholders and clients.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue to deliver Primary Industries outcomes of R&amp;D activities through conferences, industry forums, field days, paddock walks, workshops, training activities, producer demonstration sites, information packages and newsletters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to provide sustainable carrying capacities for new enterprises and properties under development or sub-division.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Delivered outcomes from Plant Industries R&D activities through three industry forums, 18 targeted field days, two information packages, five agricultural shows and eight newsletters.

- Completed Grazing Land Management (GLM) course specifically tailored for Barkly producers.

- Completed the Daly Waters Beef Up Forum, the Barkly Herd Management Forum and a Fertility in Female Cattle Field Day at OMP.

- Completed draft manuals on phosphorus supplementation and weaner management.

- Commenced two new demonstration projects, one on the intensive grazing systems at Beetaloo / Mungabroom and a Producers Demonstration Site (PDS) looking at Growth Promotants on Hayfield.

- Brought out a version of the GLM workshop tailored for the Barkly Region and ran a successful pilot workshop and the first full commercial workshop.

- Published booklets to enable producers to monitor and manage land condition in the VRD, Sturt Plateau and Barkly districts.

- Preparation of the ‘Top End Best Practice Manual on Floodplain Management’. The final draft has been circulated and final edits have been made to the publication which has been funded by MLA.

- Completed draft of final report of Pigeonhole project that identified and tested more efficient grazing strategies.

- Collaborated with DNRETAS and industry to determine alternative approaches to 1080 authorisation system.

- Continue to deliver Plant Industries outcomes of R&D activities through industry forums, targeted field days, information packages and newsletters.

- Continue with current producer demonstration projects and initiate additional ones and produce information products for industry.

- Conduct a follow up Barkly GLM workshop. Hold field days and paddock walks at demonstration sites on pastoral properties including the bi-annual major field day at Victoria River Research Station (VRRS) in Kidman Springs.

- Continue to calculate sustainable carrying capacities for new enterprises and properties under development or sub-division.

- Publish documents including the Top End Best Practice Manual on Floodplain Management, phosphorus supplementation, weaner management and best practice guides for rangeland management.

- Publish the Pigeonhole project final report.

- Finalise and implement revised shared responsibility approach to 1080 regulation with DoR acting as single point of contact for industry.

---

### 1.4 Develop infrastructure to support agribusiness

#### 1.4.1 Determine and prioritise infrastructure deficiencies (DoR / DCI / DLP) and –

- Provided regional growth industry forecasts to inform government process for future infrastructure planning.

### 1.4.2 Explore opportunities to overcome deficiencies (DoR / DCI / DLP)

- Provide regional growth industry forecasts on an annual basis.

### 1.4.3 Advocate for agribusiness industry infrastructure requirements (DoR)

- Targeted the establishment of a new northern abattoir. Working with the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) to facilitate approvals and to guide them through NT Government processes

- Finalise infrastructure funding negotiations with the Australian Government. Continue to facilitate as the development commences
OBJECTIVE 2: LAND DEVELOPMENT

Suitable land is available for sustainable production

2.1 Identify suitable land for sustainable agribusiness

2.1.1 Quantify future land requirements for agribusiness development (DoR / DLP / DNRETAS)

- Potential enterprises were considered in completing sub-strategy 2.1.2, with the task of identifying suitable land. Complete the process by seeking direction from government and advice from industry.

2.1.2 Identify suitable land for agribusiness market opportunities (DoR / DNRETAS / DLP)

- Identified opportunities for the NT in the implementation of the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project. Liaison continued with Western Australia (WA) Government.
- Worked with DLP and DNRETAS to compile technical information to advance the Territory 2030 target: Identify suitable land for further long-term and sustainable food production.
- Provided information to DLP to advance the release of new blocks for horticultural development to the east of Pine Hill, near Ti Tree.
- Provided comments to DNRETAS on the Pastoral Land Act Amendment Bill and Native Vegetation Management Bill.
- Continue working with WA Government to position NT to take advantage of investor interest.
- Prepared advice for government to assist in determining the next steps towards identifying suitable land for release.
- Continue to work with DLP to promote this land release.
- Continue to advocate for greater land use flexibility for sustainable productivity improvements in the Territory’s primary industries sectors.

2.2 Determine the best means to increase the area of suitable agricultural land for sustainable development

2.2.1 Determine options for the staged release of identified suitable land (DoR / DLP / DNRETAS)

- As per planned activities at item 2.1.2, this sub-strategy is consequential to item 2.1.2.

2.2.2 Ensure agribusiness is adequately considered in regional land use planning (DoR / DLP / DNRETAS)

- Processes established during cross-agency work under items 2.1.2 have ensured that agribusiness development is considered in land use planning.
- Continue to work with NTG colleagues to advocate for sustainable agribusiness development.
## 2.3 Advocate for greater flexibility in land use

### 2.3.1 Increase awareness and understanding of natural resource allocation, development and land tenure issues (DoR / DNRETAS / DLP)

- Capacity and knowledge of senior staff within the Primary Industry Division has increased due to involvement in projects associated with sub-strategy 2.1.2.
- Continue to work with NTG colleagues to gain wider understanding of issues.

### 2.3.2 Increase capacity to work with whole-of-government development processes and provide case management support to potential investors (DoR / DNRETAS / DBE)

- This has become a routine function and is enhanced by the establishment of the Major Projects Group, and as examples, Ord Interdepartmental Committee is chaired by DoR; facilitation services have been provided to potential abattoir investors AACo; and a southern-based agribusiness company is currently considering relocation to the NT for counter-season production.
- Continue to support proponents by assigning a lead officer to assist.

### 2.3.3 Identify a means to facilitate greater flexibility on pastoral leases for diversification (DoR / DNRETAS)

- As part of sub-strategy 2.1.2 initial advocacy role has been undertaken to advance greater and more flexible use of pastoral leases.
- Once policy direction is established provide necessary advocacy and technical/scientific information to support increased flexibility and diversity of use of pastoral leases.

### 2.3.4 Promote the benefits of a strong agribusiness sector in underpinning rural and regional development (DoR / DHLGRS / DBE / DNRETAS)

- This is embedded in routine business and actively provided at field days, conferences, publications and media events.
## OBJECTIVE 3: BIOSECURITY

Our biosecurity system is an integrated, risk-based system with strong community involvement that minimises the establishment of exotic pests and diseases

### 3.1 Develop and implement an NT biosecurity strategy

#### 3.1.1 Complete development of NT Biosecurity Strategy and publish document (DoR / DNRETAS)

- In association with key stakeholders commenced drafting of NT Biosecurity Strategy Discussion paper that will be the basis for Biosecurity Strategy.
- Lead engagement with key stakeholders to gain their response to the Discussion Paper and complete drafting of the NT Biosecurity Strategy.

#### 3.1.2 Develop implementation and evaluation plans for the NT Biosecurity Strategy (DoR / DNRETAS)

- This is a subsequent activity to completing 3.1.1.
- To ensure national alignment, review interstate implementation plans in order to guide the development of the NT plans.

#### 3.1.3 Develop a plant industry property identification system (DoR)

- Base data set for Lambells Lagoon and Douglas Daly has been extracted and validation process completed. Method for deriving unique property identifier developed.
- Work with DNRETAS and DoR Information Management to design best structure for new system to meet end user needs.

### 3.2 Increase community awareness of biosecurity

#### 3.2.1 Develop awareness in the general public on the potential impact of plant and animal pest and disease incursions (DoR)

- Completed scoping report on impacts of past, current and potential future NT biosecurity incursions and shared analysis with NT Horticultural Association (NTHA) board and NT Naturalists Club (NTNC).
- Provide multiple presentations on NT Biosecurity Strategy to stakeholders that raise awareness of impact of biosecurity incursions.
- Presented display at Fred’s Pass Show and Darwin Botanic Gardens Open Day to raise community awareness of biosecurity.
- Continue to raise community awareness of biosecurity at appropriate public events.
## 3.2 Increase capability in biosecurity by involving other agencies and industry in surveillance, management and funding (DoR)

- Accepted invitation to Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) Steering Committee meetings to identify opportunities for greater collaboration in biosecurity surveillance across northern Australia.
- Drafted NT Regulations under the *Livestock Act* for implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock (LTS). Discussed implementation and regulation of LTS with Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services Animal Welfare Branch and developed communication strategy.
- Provide input to NAQS Steering Committee on NT perspectives.
- Develop shared surveillance activities with NAQS staff.
- Deliver communications strategy for implementing LTS in 2013.

## 3.3 Effectively monitor and regulate the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals

### 3.3.1 Maintain the annual horticultural pesticide residue survey and publish annual report on results (DoR)

- Completed 2011 annual survey of pesticide residues on NT horticultural produce.
- Conduct 2012 survey and report on 2011 survey and discuss results with NT Horticultural Association and Department of Health.

### 3.3.2 Provide specific up-to-date technical information to chemical resellers (DoR)

- Technical experts have been in regular contact with NT resellers to provide advice.
- Gave three presentations to vegetable grower workshops on chemical technical information.
- Continue to provide technical advice to resellers.
- Provide further presentations to grower meetings on chemical information.

### 3.3.3 Ensure that industry is familiar with national changes to chemical regulation and the availability and use of products (DoR)

- Completed analysis of impact of national review on use of the pesticides dimethoate and fenthion in NT.
- To ensure ongoing interstate market access, revised two national protocols in response to changes in availability of insecticides dimethoate and fenthion.
- Worked directly with individual growers to adjust their interstate market access arrangements following loss of access to some chemicals.
- Develop further new or revised protocols to enable NT growers to adapt to changes in pesticide availability.
- Distribute information gained on changes to chemical availability, through membership of national committees, to NT primary producers and their suppliers.
## Objective 4: Climate Change Preparedness

*Capturing the opportunities and understanding the impacts of climate change on agribusinesses*

### 4.1 Build industry capacity to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change

#### 4.1.1 Build capacity within DoR to understand climate change and its potential impacts as it relates to agribusinesses (DoR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed modelling ‘future climate’ impacts on native pastures, cattle live weight gain and economic performance in the Victoria River District (VRD) and Alice Springs districts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Industries staff training and attendance at national forums.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Clever Beef and Northern Grazing systems projects currently in progress to investigate mitigation and adaptation strategies to Climate Change for the Pastoral Industry in the Top End, Savannah and Central Australia regions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in workshop to explore the potential to use metrological departmental forecasts to predict inductive cool conditions for mango flowering.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue scenario testing as part of the Northern Grazing Systems and Climate Clever Beef projects.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue staff training and forum attendance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Clever Beef and Northern Grazing systems projects currently in progress to investigate mitigation and adaptation strategies to Climate Change for the Pastoral Industry in the Top End, Savannah and Central Australia regions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue projects and collaboration with properties to collect research data and prepare information products for dissemination to industry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in workshop to explore the potential to use metrological departmental forecasts to predict inductive cool conditions for mango flowering.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish research project to investigate the potential to use of modelled climate and weather predictions from the meteorological bureau in mango orchard management.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.1.2 Undertake research to develop practical solutions to minimise the potential impacts of climate change (DoR / DNRETAS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects are currently in progress to investigate mitigation and adaptation strategies to Climate Change for the Pastoral Industry in the Top End, Savannah and Central Australia regions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated in workshop to explore the potential to use metrological departmental forecasts to predict inductive cool conditions for mango flowering.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue projects and collaboration with properties to collect research data and prepare information products for dissemination to industry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore opportunities with Power &amp; Water Corporation (P&amp;W) to utilise waste water from the plant in Katherine for horticulture/cropping development.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.1.3 Extend the information to stakeholders (DoR / DNRETAS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Production has produced a number of fact sheets in relation to climate change and the pastoral industry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinated input from Primary Industries, Fisheries and Minerals and Energy for the NT Government Climate Change Adaptation Plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presented Northern Grazing Systems and Climate Clever Beef information at field days and producer forums.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete an additional fact sheet on carbon accounting for a pastoral property.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publish reports on findings of ‘future climate’ scenario testing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to include the subject of climate variability and management in departmental extension materials, field days and producer forums.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with P&amp;W, identified opportunities to use waste water produced by the Katherine treatment plant in an appropriate agribusiness enterprise.</td>
<td>Working with P&amp;W engage with local agribusiness to utilise waste water from the plant the Katherine treatment facility for cropping development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.2 Identify opportunities for primary producers to participate in the climate change economy

#### 4.2.1 Build capacity within DoR to understand the emerging carbon economy as it relates to primary industries (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Pastoral Production first point of contact Climate Change Coordinator is maintaining up-to-date knowledge on national developments and disseminating information to government and industry groups.
- Develop a departmental Climate Change Management Strategy for the Pastoral Industry by the end of 2012.

#### 4.2.2 Develop practical solutions to maximise the commercial opportunities resulting from climate change (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Continued the cell grazing trial at DDRF looking at carbon sequestration under differing grazing regimes. This may identify commercial opportunities in the future.
- Data collection, collation and analysis as part of the project will continue for five years.
- Liaise with agencies developing approved methodologies to advise industry on carbon trading opportunities.

#### 4.2.3 Provide practical information to stakeholders in relation to commercial opportunities resulting from climate change (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Delivered Primary Industries technical information in a useable form through Agnotes, Technical Bulletins, best practice manuals and research reports, including the Annual Research Achievements Report. Approximately 900 publications were available during the year. Commercial opportunities are limited; we have kept a batching brief and gather information.
- Review and update Primary Industries publications to ensure that the latest research and technical information is available to stakeholders and clients. Once the Australian Government trading scheme policy comes into place, DoR will be able to provide high-level strategic advice.
## OBJECTIVE 5: INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

Indigenous people increasingly participating in agribusiness

### 5.1 Actively encourage Indigenous people to seek employment in agribusiness

#### 5.1.1 Identify potential Indigenous employees (DoR / DBE / DHLGRS)

- DoR continues to promote its entry level Indigenous programs in NT schools, including four secondary schools in the Darwin area and Charles Darwin University.

- Promotion of entry level Indigenous programs in NT schools will be an on-going activity.

#### 5.1.2 Use regional facilities as training centres for local Indigenous trainees (DoR / DNRETAS)

- Engaged with the Indigenous Land Corporation, Centrefarm and other non-government organisations (NGOs) to determine interest in establishing enterprised-based training at DoR facilities, for example: DoR formed an agreement with Aboriginal Bushtraders for use of Coastal Plains Research facility for research and to foster economic development.

- Follow up positive responses to initial approaches to NGOs progress as a matter of priority, such as continuing to work with local Central Australian Indigenous groups to provide access to Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) and the Water Re-use Project including continuing to examine appropriate and increased use of DoR research facilities.

#### 5.1.3 Develop practical support mechanisms in order to retain Indigenous employees (DoR)

- Seven Indigenous Cross Cultural Training sessions were held with 116 employees attending. A workshop was added to the DoR's Leadership Program called ‘Managing a Diverse/Indigenous Workforce’, which provided skills related to attraction and retention of Indigenous employees and delivered to 17 managers. Developed and delivered a Mentoring Program to support Indigenous employees and early career program participants; ten employees were trained as mentors.

- Further cross-cultural and mentoring training will be provided within the DoR in 2012.

- Encourage employment of Indigenous apprentices in the Primary Industries Division.

- Promote the Indigenous Apprenticeship Scheme to communities and Indigenous enterprises partnering with plant industries to utilise research farms.

#### 5.1.4 Promote agribusiness as an employer of choice (DoR)

- While no formal promotional program is in place, continued involvement in regional shows, field days and conferences increase the number of positive media statements and in turn, promote agribusiness in positive terms.

- DoR supported an undergraduate student undertaking veterinary science through the Indigenous Cadetship Support (ICS) program.

- Continue to build on positive foundation.

- DoR will be supporting two additional undergraduate students through the Indigenous Cadetship Support (ICS) program in 2012. These students will be undertaking veterinary science and agriculture virology.
## 5.2 Support employers to employ Indigenous people

### 5.2.1 Promote potential Indigenous employees to agribusiness employers (DoR)

- Continued to work collaboratively with Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) partners to promote Indigenous training and employment in the pastoral industry.

- Continue collaborative approach with IPP partners and pastoral companies to promote Indigenous employment through structured programs.

### 5.2.2 Assist agribusiness employers in the engagement, training and nurturing of Indigenous employees (DoR / DBE / DET)

- IPP has been going since 2003 and has resulted in over 50 jobs.

- Together with IPP partners continue to increase Indigenous employment and career paths into the pastoral industry via the third tranche of the IPP.

- Together with IPP partners continue to assist in providing the successful Indigenous Cattlemen’s Workshops to provide structured and accredited training to participants.

- Collaborated with a registered training organisation to train six Indigenous meat safety and quality assurance officers.

- Complete training of current students and begin second intake of four students.

### 5.3 Encourage business development

#### 5.3.1 Identify business opportunities in Indigenous communities, particularly the Working Future - Territory Growth Towns (DoR / DBE)

- Liaised across government and with Indigenous people to identify economic development opportunities in beef cattle, meat processing, horticulture, bush foods, native seeds, forestry, fisheries, nursery and mining on Aboriginal land.

- Identified Indigenous proponents and worked with them and across government to plan, develop and implement these economic development opportunities.

- Continue working across government to identify economic development opportunities.

- Continue working across government with potential agribusiness investors and with Indigenous people to take advantage of the economic development opportunities available.

- Work with cross-government training programs to build the capacity in Indigenous communities to undertake agribusiness development.

- Support the Tiwi Islands and East Arnhem forestry initiatives as appropriate.

- Examine opportunities for a fresh food plan in the Gulf Region.
- Completed the second IPP program and together with the six partner agencies agreed to a further five-year term for the IPP 2011-2016 to continue to build on current achievements and continue to enhance Indigenous pastoral participation.

- Since 2003, IPP achievements include;
  - an increase in cattle numbers on Indigenous land of approximately 86,000 head
  - an additional area of about 20,000km² developed for pastoral production, and
  - Improved land management.

- Assisted with design of new meat processing facilities at Elsey and Peppimenarti and upgrade of Batchelor abattoir.

- Collaborated with operators of existing abattoirs at Gunbalanya, Kalkarindji and Palumpa to upgrade facilities.

- Recruit to the IPP pastoral extension officer positions and work with partner organisations to implement the third tranche of the IPP and support the development of viable, Indigenous pastoral.

- Provision of tailored extension services to properties participating in the IPP.

- Assist Elsey and Peppimenarti meat processing developers to complete facilities and provide technical advice for new processing facility at Nhulunbuy.

- Continue to provide regulatory services and technical advice as necessary.

### 5.3.2 Determine the transferability of the IPP model to other agribusiness sectors (DoR)

- **Grown on Country (GoC) horticulture initiative established by Plant Industries.**

- Continue to respond to interest from willing Indigenous interests.

- Work with Land Councils and their agents to prove the viability of agribusiness enterprise on the AZRI water re-use development.

### 5.3.3 Examine options for leasing and/or developing Indigenous land (DoR / Land Councils)

- Conducted initial commercial in-confidence discussions with potential proponents.

- Work with Land Councils and their agents and develop a prospectus for horticulture developments for consideration of traditional owners and potential investors.