



# Media Release

15 March 2017

## Investing in Australia's Food Future with Agriculture

Agriculture has a rich history in Australia and is responsible for producing 90% of food for Australians. It also makes an important contribution to Australia's Gross Domestic Product. There are certain barriers to entry into the agricultural industry such as distance to training facilities and cost. This not only impacts on the number of adequately trained employees available to the industry but can limit innovation.

In addition to finding and attracting suitable employees and accessing training, there are other issues facing the agriculture sector. These include an aging workforce, succession planning, market instability and restrictions, climate change, drought, floods, proximity to markets and potential threats to export and trade agreements.

It's not all bad news though. With new technological advances, changes in consumer trends and new trade prospects, there are opportunities for savvy new entrants and existing farmers. Staying informed and conducting research to identify and capitalise on emerging opportunities is key.

Understanding the industry, keeping your finger on the pulse, being creative and identifying new and relevant opportunities can be difficult when you are busy working and doing all the things it takes to operate your business while making ends meet. Gaining this knowledge may involve upskilling or training to obtain new skills to keep your business profitable and futureproof.

ACS Distance Education offer courses that are ideal for those looking to enter the industry, for people who are already working in the industry and would like to gain a different perspective or diversify within their business or even for those who are interested in starting their own small self-sufficient farm. Courses are written by ACS academic staff who know the industry. They are designed for the busy person who can't attend traditional classes with self-paced and flexible learning options allowing the student to select the subjects that best suit their needs.

With topics from crops, livestock and animal management, land management and environmental to business and farm development and management, ACS course offerings include short to long courses.

Visit our site today for more information: [www.acs.edu.au/agriculture](http://www.acs.edu.au/agriculture)

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If you have any queries or would like to arrange an interview or a review copy of this eBook, please call or email the ACS head office on the Gold Coast on (07) 5562 1088 and ask for our Media and Marketing Officers ([admin@acs.edu.au](mailto:admin@acs.edu.au)).

**About ACS Distance Education ...** Established in 1979, ACS Distance Education is a leading Australian Distance Education provider and eBook publisher offering over 600 courses via correspondence, online or on CDs and over 100 eBook titles. The Institution has offices in Australia and the United Kingdom and has Affiliates in Australia, Philippines, Singapore, UK, New Zealand, France and Ireland. ACS has educated thousands of students, many of whom have gone onto successful employment, both in industry or in their own businesses.