



22 September 2015

Flinders University submission to Committee to examine technological advancement in agriculture Inquiry and report on Agricultural Innovation.

Flinders University welcomes the opportunity to provide a short statement in line with the terms of reference of the enquiry and report on the role of technology in increasing agricultural productivity in Australia.

Agricultural productivity is a key part of Australia's economy and is likely to increase in importance as the resource boom declines, world demand for food increases, and climate change exacerbates environmental stress.

Increasing agricultural productivity will require development and adoption of new technology aimed at enhancing agricultural practices and developing novel products, including new crop plants with enhanced tolerance of both abiotic and biotic environmental stress, and with improved nutritional value.

Australia is known for its innovative research into agricultural science, largely through CSIRO Agriculture and the science and agricultural schools in universities, and it is important that this research is adequately supported in the future.

Much of the research required is fundamental in nature, utilizing advances in the IT and communications area to improve agricultural practices, as well as plant and animal genomics to generate novel products.

New advances are likely to require multidisciplinary teams working together. It is important that new advances are communicated appropriately to the farming sector and translated quickly into practice.