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World-class soil science central to growth of regenerative agriculture

Science must remain the key driver behind regenerative agriculture providing the essential evidence base for farmers across Australia.

Speaking on [National Regenerative Agriculture Day](#), Soil Science Australia's Federal President, Associate Professor Luke Mosley CPSS, said maintaining the focus on the underlying science and gaining a better understanding of soil health and capability was a fundamental part of this growing movement.

"Regenerative agriculture is deservedly gaining traction among our farming communities as they grapple with extreme weather events, climate change and change of land use," said Associate Professor Mosley.

"Farmers want to do the right thing by their land and as soil scientists, we want to make sure the science is in place to support engagement in regenerative agricultural practices."

Associate Professor Mosley said greater integration and acceptance of the regenerative agriculture movement by the academic science community will benefit all those involved in sustainable agriculture.

"At the end of the day, we're all working towards the same overarching goal—sustainable natural resource management," he said.

"Soils represent Australia's most valuable natural resource, now worth nearly \$6 billion. Regenerative agriculture begins and ends with optimal soil health, so it makes sense to seek a greater synergy between that movement and soil science."

Improved soil-related training opportunities at all levels, closer links between soils research, industry bodies and government combined with a firm commitment to engagement with farmers is critical Associate Professor Mosley said.

"We must harness the best soils research and insights from in-the-field soils consultants to give farmers the knowledge and tools they need to help future proof against the ravages of drought, heat, flood and wind," he said.

"At times, soil science could run the risk of becoming largely academic unless we continue to make a conscientious effort to keep the end-user application central to our work in both research and in our training institutions—what does soil science mean to the grain grower in the Western Australian wheat belt, or the dairy in Gippsland, or the citrus operation in the Riverland?"

"Good evidence-based science of any kind should always underpin sound policy and best practice application. We know that soil science can mean the difference between thriving on-farm or barely surviving," said Associate Professor Mosley. "We want to work with regenerative agriculture and help to ensure more farming families have sound scientific information they need to thrive."

About us

Soil Science Australia is the non-governmental peak body for soils and soil scientists across Australia.

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