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Title: Farm economics of land use change in the central west of NSW under the TARGET project

Abstract

Integrated Catchment Management for salinity is currently a central area of policy concern in Australia and so is the focus of major policy initiatives and spending plans. A major policy trend of recent years has been a focus on the management of catchments as an integrated whole. In New South Wales, the NSW government and the Murray-Darling Basin Commission have initiated a project (TARGET) to support landscape change in the Lachlan and Macquarie catchments, in which research is proceeding concurrently with the implementation of salinity management measures. Part of the TARGET project involves cooperative work by the Department of Land and Water Conservation (NSW) and the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre (iCAM) at ANU to develop and test a range of land use change options for four focus sub-catchments in the Lachlan and Macquarie catchment areas. The research segment of the project includes development of a Regional Integrated Management Information System and collection and analysis of producer profiles data at farm level. Simultaneously extension staff and cooperating farmers are implementing a range of salinity management procedures, such as perennial pasture establishment and management, and tree planting. This paper focuses on the economic analysis of salinity management procedures that are being implemented. Results of the analysis and a description of the multiperiod model developed for the project are the subject of this paper.

Keywords; Farm economic analysis; Modelling Salinity; Integrated Catchment Management