SOUTHERN NSW
Innovation Hub
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,
LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM GRANT

SHARING EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Many NSW communities have experienced extreme weather events and are in differing stages of disaster preparation, response and recovery. Some will be in all three stages at the same time. The Sharing Early Insights for More Resilient Communities project explored the innovative use of data to provide earlier insights of resilience in such communities.

Investment

The total investment for the project was $709,281 from the Australian Government's Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program Grant. An additional $625,796 was invested as in-kind co-contributions from partners, stakeholders and participants in the project.

Outcomes

- A new online dashboard that uses sets of data-supported indicators as a practical guide for communicating changes in resilience and enables a more rapid identification of changes in resilience in communities impacted by natural hazards.
- The dashboard supports communities and community stakeholders to better understand two things, current levels of resilience and change in level of resilience over time.
- Visit www.xxxxx.xxxxx.xxxxxxxx

Next steps

The next steps are to further the work by integrating the early warning indicators into existing emergency management systems and making data publicly available to help drive additional data gathering and extend the potential impact of the tool. The Hub is keen to work with government, NGOs and community organisations to scope out the level and nature of investment required to progress this work and ensure viability of the tool for ongoing use in communities.

Stakeholder response

Feedback indicated a successful co-design process, as end users were engaged throughout the project and workshop participants were happy with the level of input they were able to provide. Feedback was positive around the rigour of the underlying research and literature.

Stakeholders felt the indicators will be highly useful in assisting rural communities address emerging issues and useful to community groups and services working to improve community resilience.

Suggested benefits of the Early Insights for More Resilient Communities Tool enabled:

- More timely and relevant information provided to communities for improved disaster recovery processes
- More informed communities
- Democratised data
- Improved submissions and policy requests
- Improved response times by councils/organisations.

"Great to see the framing around quality of life and wellbeing. It's important work that would be great to see widely used and built upon – an excellent advance in thinking."

8.7 OUT OF 10

believe indicators will be **very useful** in assisting rural communities **address emerging issues.***

8 OUT OF 10

considered the tool to be **useful/valuable** for community groups and services working to **improve community resilience.****

* Early Insights for Resilience Project – Engagement workshops participant feedback (Mar/Apr 23)
** Resilient Communities Workshop December 2023 Participant Feedback

Aims

- Analyse existing and novel data sets to extract insights that can act as 'early indicators' that a community's resilience is changing.
- Test these early indicators to help government, NGOs and community organisations rapidly identify where resilience is at risk and support is needed before, during and after extreme climatic events.
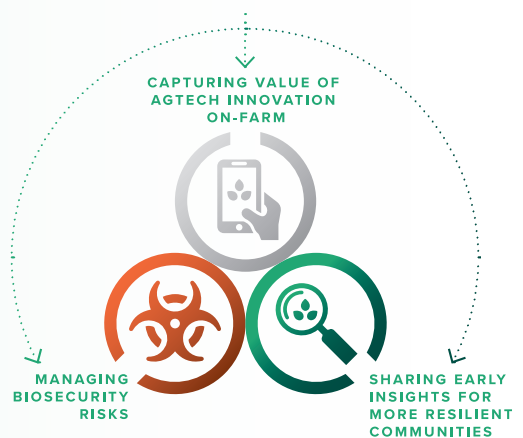
Outputs

1. Workshops with key stakeholders, identification of early warning signal and the Early Insights for More Resilient Communities Report
2. Rapid Survey Tool (integrated with annual Regional Wellbeing Survey) and Early Warning Signals Technical Guide
3. Resilience Early Warning Tool – data and analytics visualisation proof of concept, tested with key stakeholders and path to scale report.

"Incredible data in there... what a wonderful resource and relevant for so many of the community hats we all wear."

Sharing Early Insights for More Resilient Communities is one of three agricultural innovation investment areas. The project is a joint initiative with the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and forms part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program.

THE
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM
IS FOCUSED ON THREE KEY ACTIVITIES:

CAPTURING VALUE OF AGTECH INNOVATION ON-FARM

MANAGING BIOSECURITY RISKS

SHARING EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

BE INVOLVED IN THE HUB. CONTACT: >> **southernNSWhub@csu.edu.au**