CENTRE OBJECTIVES

MISSION

The Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Rice Production will increase the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Australian rice industry and enhance its international competitiveness through both strategic and tactical research and implementation of practical, cost-effective programs.

OBJECTIVES

This CRC aims to increase the contribution the rice industry makes to the national economy and to the welfare of all Australians by:

- generating knowledge to improve the sustainability of the natural resources and the systems used to produce rice;
- developing germplasm which will be the basis of a sustainable increase in rice yields and quality;
- developing a more strategic base for rice research in Australia; and
- formally linking key agencies involved in rice research, education and extension and focusing their effort on a common purpose.

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  Secretariat and Partners and is not included in this formal printed document)
  CEO CERTIFICATION (This document is provided electronically to the CRC Secretariat and
  Partners and is not included in this formal printed document)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chairman’s Report

Mr John Herbert, Chairman, Rice CRC

As I reflect on the eight years our CRC has operated I find there is a lot to be pleased about and surprisingly little that one would wish had been done differently.

At the beginning of the Rice CRC eight years ago we articulated the objectives of increasing the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the Australian Rice Industry.

I believe that our report card against these objectives would show:

• The industry has achieved significant economic gains as a result of rapid uptake of the work of our CRC. The Rice CRC has demonstrated a special type of cooperation in research that really adds value to the investment by the Commonwealth and our partners. This is the highly cooperative linkages between researchers and farmers. I have noted that farmers often start to apply the principles of new concepts being trialled even before the trial results are published. This level of rapid uptake and innovative adaptation of new concepts enables benefit/cost returns to research investment that are the envy of many other industries.

• The natural resource management aspects of our research work have provided the basis for significant on farm, catchment, national and international improvements in sustainability and provide the basis for improved economic and social outcomes. The mix of catchment wide hydrology research and development of practical tools to enable on-farm actions to address catchment targets have created an environment which is enabling the rice industry to respond effectively to criticism of the industry’s use of water and in many cases to demonstrate world leadership in this area. Rice CRC work in this area was a significant contributor to the work that was recognised UNESCO when naming the Murrumbidgee catchment as its first HELP Reference Basin.

• The last few years have been some of the harshest years for rice production, however “rice communities” have demonstrated a remarkable level of adaptability and resilience. I believe that the Rice CRC’s contributions to economic and environmental sustainability has helped rice communities cope with the adverse production conditions in ways that provide confidence that rice communities will continue to provide the sustainable social framework that is necessary to compliment the improving economic and environmental conditions that will resume when we return to more normal seasons and water allocations.
Achieving these outcomes has not come by accident. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge key people and groups who provided us with the strong and effective leadership that enabled us to achieve so much.

Our inaugural Chair, the late Dr Ian Davidge, AO, provided us with an amazing knowledge of the many aspects of the rice industry and a clear vision for what the Rice CRC could achieve. On a personal level, I gained a lot through working with Ian and I know that many others feel a similar level of gratitude to Ian for his willingness to use his knowledge and experience for the benefit of the Rice CRC and the broader community and to extend this at a personal level to others with whom he worked.

The Board has been a positive force in our CRC’s success. Although we are an unincorporated joint venture where each Board Member is appointed by a participant to ensure its interests are protected, the Board has always acted in a “corporate” manner, acting for the benefit of the CRC as a whole as its dominant focus.

Our Management Committee has also been a positive element of our operations. It has acted in a “corporate” manner in discharging its role, avoiding the temptation to advocate for projects that benefit a partner at the risk of missing a better application of the funds in the context of the Rice CRC’s goals. This has enabled us to get more out of the science program than would otherwise have been the case.

Our scientists and educators have provided a huge body of high quality, outcomes-directed work, in spite of difficult seasonal conditions for much of the life of our CRC. Their enthusiasm for engagement with end users has meant that this work has maintained an “applied” focus that ensured the results would find its way into the practical application quickly and effectively.

The CRC administration staff have consistently performed their duties in a timely and effective manner. This has enabled our science and education programs to achieve the levels of performance for which we are justifiably proud.

None of this would have been possible without the day to day leadership provided by our CEO, Dr Laurie Lewin. Laurie has an amazing depth of knowledge about the rice industry and rice production. This and his engaging personal leadership style provides a level of credibility that has enabled him to lead the Rice CRC through situations that a lesser leader would have found insurmountable. I believe that Laurie has been the essential component of the equation that enabled our CRC to convert the potential of our partnership into the research and education results that will be the hallmark of the Rice CRC.

In concluding this final report, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all those people who have enabled me to add a rich additional dimension to my life experience while hopefully adding some value to a great institution, the Rice CRC.
This is the final annual report for the CRC for Sustainable Rice Production. It seems like a long journey from July 1997 when the joint venture was established. There have been many highs and lows. On balance, however, I am pleased to have been associated with a venture that achieved so many of its original objectives.

Many individuals and organisations have contributed to CRC outcomes and I hope that the collaborations and the friendships that have developed over its life will not be lost. I am disappointed that the situation of the industry at the moment places severe limits on follow-on research and education opportunities that have been created during the CRC. These will have to wait for a return to better conditions. I am also disappointed that this will mean that some good people will be affected. I trust that, for them, the CRC will be a stepping stone to new and better opportunities.

There have been great research and education moments in the CRC. For me, however, the highlight has been the great cooperation and collaboration that developed and the good atmosphere that existed whenever CRC “people” were together. I hope that this atmosphere is not lost over the years and we can contrive to keep the relationships strong into the future.

One of the great joys has been the progress of the students – be they at postgraduate or undergraduate level. I know that many have progressed to exciting new stages in their career and we wish them all well. Although many are not working within the Australian rice industry, I know that their contact with the industry will be important in the future. I do thank all those who were so involved with supervision and guidance.

We have had many successful research projects. I know that natural resource management in the rice system will be enhanced by our research. Some results will have immediate impact but others will be developed over time. There have been many new rice-based products developed over the life of the CRC and improved rice processing techniques have been implemented. This is not all due to the CRC but we have been a component in the evolutionary change. Similarly, there have been some great achievements in agronomy, genetics and other education components.

The past three years have highlighted the importance of some of our CRC research. Better use of the water resource will become even more important in the future. Water allocations will return to more normal levels but it will always be essential to make the most efficient use of this resource. Cold tolerance is also essential for a vibrant industry. It is pleasing to see that the CRC research will be used to ensure the development of cold tolerant cultivars.
All participants in the CRC have contributed to its outcomes. But there are some who shared the responsibility for forging and maintaining this distributed organisation.

I have been very fortunate to have worked with two dedicated and capable Chairmen. Ian Davidge will always epitomise for me the drive, enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication that helped forge the rice industry. He used these characteristics to drive the establishment of a CRC. I will miss him as a colleague, mentor and friend. He did so much to establish the collegiate feeling in the CRC. We were then very fortunate that John Herbert took on the challenge as Chairman after Ian’s retirement due to ill-health. John carried on the role as a dedicated advisor and mentor. His skill guided the CRC to its conclusion and he was able to steer a course through the many difficulties that arose. We, in the Rice CRC, owe him a debt of gratitude.

I can only endorse the Chairman’s comments that the Board always acted in the best interests of the CRC as a whole. I would particularly like to thank the various independent Directors who gave so freely of their time to help the CRC.

The Management Committee shared the responsibility for running the CRC. They were a major force for its success. The Program leaders, in particular, shouldered a lot of responsibility and often without significant reward.

The Centre Visitor, Professor Don Marshall provided valuable advice and was an important link between the CRC and the Rice Research and Development Committee of RIRDC. He was a true friend to the CRC.

Gordon Hart, as Executive Officer, was conscientious and dedicated in his management of CRC affairs. We were very fortunate that Gordon has occupied this position for the life of the CRC. He has been dedicated in ensuring the orderly wind-up of the CRC and we wish him every success with his new business venture.

Mrs Robyn Troldahl did a great job as education officer and since she was in the CRC office area, she was also an integral part of the management team and gave much more to the position than we were really entitled to.

Julie Symes, Executive Secretary, was really the backbone of the CRC organisation. She ensured that everything was in place and was always first contact for those wishing things from CRC management. All within the CRC owe her gratitude because, without her dedicated efforts, our organisation would not have functioned.

I believe that we have substantially fulfilled our mission. Our contribution has been masked by the effects of the drought, which has seen rice reduced to about a third of normal production. When there is a return to better water supply conditions, the real influence of the CRC will become apparent. All the participants in the CRC should feel comfortable that they contributed to the success of this transient organisation. May the cooperation and research success continue in the future.
GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Rice Production is an unincorporated joint venture established in 1997 by an Agreement between the Centre parties:-

Charles Sturt University
The University of Sydney
CSIRO
NSW Department of Primary Industries
NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Ricegrowers’ Co-operative Limited t/as SunRice

and an Agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia.

A Deed of Variation was signed between the Commonwealth and the parties in July 2004 to allow for an additional year for the joint venture until June 2005. At this stage the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources decided to withdraw from the venture and executed a Deed of Retirement.

The organisational structure of the Centre is outlined below. The management structure consists of the Board and the Director. The Board and Director are advised by Committees and supported by an administration office dealing with administrative and financial activities. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the Centre and for ensuring Centre management. The Director is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Rice CRC. He is assisted by a Management Committee, which includes key staff, and Program Leaders. The Rice Research and Development Committee of RIRDC is an advisory committee to the Rice CRC. The Centre Agent is NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and it provides financial and research program/project service and support for the Centre. The Centre’s administrative office is located at the Yanco Agricultural Institute (NSW DPI).
THE BOARD

The Centre is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of an independent chairperson, a high level nominee of each of the participating core partners and two persons to represent the interests of the Centre Associates and the Riverina community.

The Board meets a minimum of four times a year, usually two weeks after a Committee meeting so any issues requiring consent of the Board can be dealt with promptly.

The Board has the following functions and powers.

1. To establish policies for the Centre which cover research, education, training, intellectual property, commercialisation, planning, staffing, finance, accounting, reporting and such other matters as the Board considers necessary for the conduct of the business of the Centre, and its accountability to the Commonwealth and the participants pursuant to the Commonwealth and Centre Agreements.

2. To approve the activities of the Centre annually and the subsequent Annual Budget as described in Schedules 1 and 4 of the Commonwealth Agreement.

3. To monitor, measure and approve the performance indicators for the Centre.

4. To appoint, oversee and review the performance of the Director.

5. To take account of the relevant policies of each of the parties when considering any matter.

6. To authorise others to act on behalf of the Board and of the Centre.

7. To review the parties' contributions and seek to amend the Schedules of the Commonwealth Agreement provided that affected parties shall have agreed to any change in or any change to their intellectual property arrangements. Such changes will require the approval of the Commonwealth.

8. To consider and, if appropriate, approve new projects recommended by the Management Committee. Such new projects will also require approval by the Commonwealth and appropriate changes to the Schedules of the Commonwealth Agreement.
Board membership for 2004/2005

Mr John Herbert  Chair
Dr Laurie Lewin  Director, Rice CRC
Prof Jim Pratley  Alternative: Charles Sturt University
    Prof Paul Burnett  Alternative: Charles Sturt University
Prof Beryl Hesketh  Alternative: The University of Sydney
Prof Kath Bowmer  Alternative: CSIRO Land and Water
[to Nov 2004]
Dr Colin Chartres  Alternative: CSIRO Plant Industry
[from Nov 2004]
Alternative: vacant
Ms Helen Scott-Orr  Alternative: NSW Department of Primary Industries
vacant
Mr Warwick Ford  Alternative: NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural
[to June 2004]
Resources
(DIPNR ceased to be a partner at the end of its original 7 year term on 30/6/2004).
Dr Keith Hutton  Alternative: Ricegrowers’ Co-operative Ltd (t/as SunRice)
Mr Russell Barratt  Alternative: Ricegrowers’ Co-operative Ltd (t/as SunRice)
Mr Steve Marshall  Alternative: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
[from Dec 04]  (RIRDC)
Alternative: Mrs Helen Cameron  Alternative: Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
[from Dec 04]
Mr Peter Draper  Alternative: Rice Research and Development Committee (RRDC)
Ms Sulari Goonetilleke  Independent (representing the broader community interest)
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee is made up of the Director, the Program Leaders, the Executive Officer and representatives of the parties, not otherwise represented.

The Management Committee assists the Director in attaining the objectives of the Centre through the implementation of the policies of the Board in relation to research, education and training, technology transfer, publication of research outcomes, finance and staffing.

The Committee coordinates the Centre’s activities and prepares new programs and policies for consideration by the Board.

The Committee meets a minimum of four times a year, usually two weeks before the next Board meeting so that any issues requiring consent of the Board can be dealt with promptly.

Management Committee membership for 2004/2005:

Dr Laurie Lewin Chairman
Mr Gordon Hart Executive Officer, Rice CRC
Dr Liz Humphreys CSIRO Land and Water [Program 1 Leader]
Dr Liz Dennis CSIRO Plant Industry [Program 3 Leader]
Mr David Welch Ricegrowers’ Co-operative Limited t/as SunRice [Program 4 Leader]
Dr Philip Eberbach Charles Sturt University [Program 5 Leader]
Assoc Prof Bruce Sutton The University of Sydney
Mr Phillip Green NSW Department Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources [to July 2004 - DIPNR ceased to be a partner from 30/6/2004]
Dr Jeff Davis Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
Prof Graeme Batten Charles Sturt University [Program 2 Leader]
Mr John Lacy NSW Department of Primary Industries
Mr John Herbert Chairman, Rice CRC Board
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The advisory committee is the Rice Research and Development Committee (RRDC) of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC).

As the advisory committee to the Centre, the RIRDC Rice Research and Development Committee assists in providing broader input to the policies, planning and Programs of the Centre and to ensure coordination of research projects and functions.

Interaction between RRDC and the Rice CRC has been facilitated by cross-representation on the Board, Management Committee and the Rice Research and Development Committee. Details of Rice CRC Programs are conveyed to RRDC members through the annual Rice CRC Symposium and regular newsletters. This was not found to be sufficient, however, and members of RRDC have been allocated to liaise with the five Rice CRC Programs. They are all rice grower members of RRDC.

CENTRE VISITOR

Prof Don Marshall is the CRC’s Visitor and has actively attended CRC Board meetings and participated in CRC activities. Prof Marshall has been an invaluable mentor and we appreciate his ongoing guidance and support.

The CRC Visitor is appointed by the CRC Secretariat to liaise with and assist in monitoring the CRCs he or she has been allocated. The CRC Visitor acts as an independent adviser and helps establish constructive links between the Secretariat and the CRCs.

CENTRE PROGRAMS

The research Programs are broken into five main areas, these are :-

1. Sustainability of Natural Resources in Rice-Based Cropping Systems.
2. Sustainable Production Systems.
3. Genetic Improvement for Sustainable Production.
5. Education, Skills Development and Technology Transfer.

Each Program has a leader to direct and monitor the research activities. The Programs are further divided into Sub-Programs, which also have a nominated leader. Beneath each Sub-Program are the research projects which all have a Project Leader who is the principal researcher.

CENTRE COMMITMENT

The Rice CRC is a distributed organisation with participants located with partner organisations throughout NSW, ACT and Queensland. It is always essential, therefore, to address the commitment of participants to the Centre.
The CRC strongly encourages networking between its partners and projects and encourages opportunities for staff to meet face to face and maintain its existing team spirit. Initiatives such as the Rice CiRCle (newsletter) and smaller group workshops have all contributed to the development of a Rice CRC ethos. The Rice CRC held an international cold workshop in Canberra in July 2004 to which all CRC staff were invited, not just those working on the CRC cold program. The CRC also held its final Symposium in February 2005 which was strongly supported by all its participants.
COMMERCIALISATION/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER/ UTILISATION

The Rice CRC is committed to ensuring that its research is developed in conjunction with users and is accepted and implemented throughout the industry.

The Rice CRC program is broad and ranges from management of natural resources through to development of new rice products. Users therefore vary from the general community, irrigation companies, government groups and producers, through to the processing sector.

In 2004/2005, rice was produced by approx. 499 growers in the Murrumbidgee Valley (NSW) and 505 in the Murray Valley (NSW/Victoria). The numbers of growers and crops produced was for the third consecutive year severely reduced due to the impact of the drought and water restrictions. The rice industry normally involves over 2,000 producers in NSW and 18 in Victoria. These are generally small production units that are linked by the need for objective research that addresses issues that impact on their future.

A number of organisations are involved in provision and application of this information. It is important that the Rice CRC works with these in order to ensure that the information is credible and is applied where needed.

These links are illustrated in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Involvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice producers (2,130 farms in NSW)</td>
<td>Production Sustainability (watertables, salinity, drainage water quality, pest control)</td>
<td>Extension Involvement as advisors at project, program and Board levels Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice organisations -Ricegrowers’ Association of Australia</td>
<td>Production Processing Sustainability Policy</td>
<td>Advice Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Rice Research &amp; Development Committee</td>
<td>Research programs</td>
<td>Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processors (eg SunRice)</td>
<td>Processing Sustainability (pests) Quality Assurance New producers</td>
<td>Involvement in research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation corporations - Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited - Coleambally Irrigation Cooperative Limited - Murray Irrigation Limited</td>
<td>Sustainability (watertables, salinity, drainage water quality)</td>
<td>Involvement as advisors Cooperation Rice CRC project participants and collaborators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness Companies (chemical and fertiliser distributors)</td>
<td>Sustainability (pest control) Productivity (eg, fertilisers)</td>
<td>Extension Education Involvement in research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land and Water Management Plan groups</td>
<td>Sustainability (watertables, salinity, drainage water quality) Productivity</td>
<td>Liaison Land and Water Management Plan project committees Education programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Sustainability Education</td>
<td>Implementation and education Policy involvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transfer of information to users

* **Field Days**

Rice CRC staff assisted with the conduct of the 2005 rice field days at various locations. The CRC also included a field trip to a local property conducting rice trials, as part of its 2005 Symposium program.

* **Interaction with users**

Project 1105 (Remote sensing of irrigated crop types and its application to regional water balance estimation) has been an excellent example of a project which has constantly interacted with users. Rice identification methods developed in this project have been used in irrigation management at the CIA over the past three years. An in-depth user's manual was also developed and has now been published and delivered to CICL, showing a constructive link with users of the research. The project's rice identification research is currently utilised by CICL in order to improve yearly rice administration. CICL's previous method relied on expensive aerial photographs to be purchased every year (in the order of $20,000 for the base data), while the 2004-2005 rice crop was identified using inexpensive Landsat imagery ($650 for the base data). Publication of the results defining when it's best to purchase satellite imagery for other non-rice crops (summer growing season) has now also been completed. This research may be used in the future if water restrictions become stricter as these non-rice crops use less water. The technology transfer for Project 1105 has been performed to ensure CICL can continue this process into the future.

Project 1207 (Adoption pathways for risk-based irrigation demand management under system constraints) has involved active participation from stakeholders to test a water allocation model and project findings.

Project 1403a (Risk-based spatial modelling to identify regional soil salinity trends in irrigation areas) participated in a salinity workshop in June 2005 where the PhD student gave presentations on her work to representatives from the irrigation companies, DIPNR and Catchment Management Authorities.

Project 1404 is a consolidation of Projects 1201 (Optimising agronomic options at the farm level), 1205 (Crops after rice), 1401 (Regional groundwater management) and 1403 (Quantifying climatic and management impacts on watertables and soil salinity). This combined project saw active participation from stakeholders from CIA during the last year of the project to fix the targets and options to run and evaluate scenarios to quantify how crops after rice and regional options can help improve groundwater and salt management from farm to catchment levels. A final report was also produced describing the key findings, assessment of tools and scenario analysis. The Project Leader convened a Hydrology workshop as part of the Rice CRC's 2005 Annual Symposium. The methodology for tracking unaccounted flows and upscaled irrigation water use efficiency, developed in association with Pratt Water Project and related activities, is considered as “state of art”. CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship program has decided to invest in this methodology, to be replicated across the Murray Darling Basin. This project will provide major inputs into the National Water Initiative aimed at securing 500 GL (MCM) water for environment, largely through irrigation...
efficiency improvements. The water savings identified by the Project will become the basis for infrastructure investments in the Murrumbidgee catchment.

**Development of new products and processes**

This information is normally provided in the “Research” chapter of the Annual Report. Most of this CRC’s “development of new products and processes” has occurred in Program 4 – Product and Process Development (Refer “Research” chapter). However as part of Project 1207 a web-based model has been developed for wider adoption of climate forecasting tools.

**Licences or options on intellectual property to industry and other end users**

The following table outlines strategies for IP at the conclusion of the Rice CRC (ie - 30 June 2005).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item of IP</th>
<th>Ownership arrangements after the grant period</th>
<th>Strategy for exploiting IP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1303: Enzymes which degrade thio compounds and methods of use thereof</td>
<td>Assigned to CSIRO Entomology under agreement. Patent application lodged.</td>
<td>Joint venture between CSIRO and Orica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1304: Degradation of hydrophobic ester pesticides and toxins</td>
<td>Assigned to CSIRO Entomology under agreement. Patent application lodged.</td>
<td>Joint venture between CSIRO and Orica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2106: Estimation of soil sodicity and pH using NIR spectroscopy</td>
<td>Assigned to NSWDPI under agreement.</td>
<td>Further research required and consideration of commercialisation when this is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3201: Molecular basis for cold tolerance</td>
<td>Assigned to CSIRO (Plant Industries) under an agreement.</td>
<td>Further research required and patent position to be determined once this is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3203: Bloodworm resistance through genetic engineering</td>
<td>Assigned to CSIRO (Entomology) under an agreement</td>
<td>Further research will be required but there is considerable potential for commercialisation under patent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3301: Improved protocols for isolated microspore culture</td>
<td>Assigned to University of Sydney under an agreement</td>
<td>Further research required but there is considerable opportunity for commercialisation as a trade secret.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any IP arising after the 30 June, 2005 (cessation date for the Rice CRC) and arising from Centre activities will be assigned to the lead partner in development of the IP with entitlement for the Joint Venture Partners to be preserved as defined in the Joint Venture Agreement.
Consultancies/contracts

Staff in Project 1405 (Continuous salinity imaging along canals and drains) have been commissioned by DIPNR and MDPC to carry out research (under contract) using the floating array technology on the Murray River near Buronga and Mallee Cliffs salt interception schemes. They have also been commissioned by the Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) to undertake a consultancy on EC imaging beneath the Border Rivers and Richmond River (NSW) – icon surface water/groundwater interaction sites.

Participation in trade conferences to market technology or knowledge to potential users

(Refer to “Public Presentations” in “Communications Strategy” chapter and also “Published Conference Papers” in “Publications” chapter.)

Other technology transfer activities aimed at dissemination of information

(Refer to “Public Presentations” in “Communications Strategy” chapter).

* Newsletters and publications

Two editions of the Centre's external newsletter "Rice CRC Update" were distributed this financial year to over 2,000 rice growers throughout the Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys.

Five editions of the internal newsletter, "Rice CiRCle", were electronically delivered to approximately 250 Centre participants this financial year.

The Rice CRC also contributed to newsletters and website items produced by the Ricegrowers’ Association of Australia, which are made available to over 2,000 rice growers and also the general public through its website. The Rice CRC also places research reports and press releases on its own website for the information of interested persons.

The rice supplement to the Australian Grain Magazine has also continued to be an important vehicle for transfer of information on Rice CRC research to users. Articles featuring CRC projects have also appeared in IREC’s Large Area Farmers’ Newsletter which is distributed to growers and researchers.

Participants in Project 1301 (The persistence of rice pesticides in floodwaters and how this is influenced by water management and layout) produced an article called “New combinations reduce pesticide impacts’ for “IREC Farmers Newsletter No.167, Winter 2004” which is a publication widely distributed to growers and other irrigation industry people.

(See Parts B, C & D for remainder of Report)