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Ambitious goal supported by new TIA strategy

Supporting Tasmania's ambitions for primary industries, while working with industry and partners to delivery greater efficiency and sustainability for the sector, are the pillars of the new TIA strategic plan launched today.

TIA Strategies and Initiatives to make a difference – is the plan that will guide the Institute's next five years.

"TIA has the mandate to progress the agriculture industry of Tasmania through the provision of industry relevant research and development, encouraging the industry adoption of findings, and through the delivery of educational offerings relevant to Tasmania," Professor Michael Rose, Interim Director, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, said.

"The University is committed to the responsible use of Tasmania's agricultural resources for economic growth and the sustainable management of the island's unique environment.

"Equally, the Tasmanian Government sees agriculture and food production as a key driver of the state's economic growth, as it aims to foster a sustainable upswing in the competitiveness of the agriculture and food sectors. TIA is well positioned to be a key enabler of these aims," Professor Rose said.

The Tasmanian Government has an ambitious goal to grow the annual value of the State's agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.

Its white paper - *Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture for 2050* - details how it will continue to support agricultural producers to reduce their emissions, adapt to, and be prepared for the impacts of climate change and leverage opportunities for growth.

"Investment in agricultural research, development, and extension (RD&E) is a key factor to achieving the growth rate necessary to reach this target," Professor Rose said.

"This strategic plan is led by the vision that TIA will enable Tasmanian food producers and processors to accelerate primary sector productivity while maintaining and improving Tasmania's land and water quality for future generations. That is TIA's 'why'.

"Our 'how' comprises several strategies, including: transforming the knowledge of agriculture, food production and post-farmgate practices to create sustainable and economic benefit; building resilience to climate change; and creating educational pathways into agriculture and the food industry, and refocusing the curriculum to enable the growth of both.

"To realise the strategies, we have devised a series of initiatives, among them: building on our engagement with industry partners; continuing to grow our world-class research; and investing in capacity and capability that will help our farmers achieve the goals of the State Government.

“Agriculture is growing to become an even more important contributor to the Tasmanian economy,” Professor Rose said.

“We are in an especially exciting time to study and work within the agriculture sector in Tasmania.

“As the industry reaps the rewards of strong investment and continued economic growth, our hope for this strategic plan is to demonstrate TIA’s very real commitment to the sustainable growth of the State’s flourishing agriculture industry.”

You can read the Strategy at www.utas.edu.au/tia/about

TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

Media contact: Catherine Gale-Stanton 0419 257 626 or cc.stanton@utas.edu.au

Information released by:

Communications Office

University of Tasmania

+61 3 6226 2124

Communications.Office@utas.edu.au

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