

2008 Annual Conference

30 Years As One Voice

Media Release



Wednesday 30 July, 2008
PR/137/08

Research key to effective carbon plan

The Government needs to fund research into the value of carbon sequestration in agriculture so that carbon sequestered in soil by all forms of pasture, cropping and forestry can be quantified and valued, according to the NSW Farmers' Association.

Following an earlier motion that the Federal Government's proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) take into account the full carbon cycle of agriculture, delegates at the Association's Annual Conference have also voted to push for greater research.

"The current carbon accounting rules do not provide any means to claim credits for soil carbon as part of the CPRS or international legislated carbon markets," NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie said.

"This is because many challenges face the establishment of a viable market for soil carbon offsets, including articles of the Kyoto protocol, and the difficulty of measuring it given a high degree of variability in how carbon occurs in the soil profile," Mr Laurie said.

"However, farmers don't see this as a reason to exclude the possibility completely," he said.

"Conditions for establishing a soil carbon market include practical measurement and monitoring techniques for soil carbon; a net balance sheet approach to permanence rules and carbon accounting and changes to Kyoto rules to distinguish between natural and human induced soil carbon losses.

"It is a challenge, which is why the Association will be pushing the Government to invest in a major research and development effort to ensure that we have proven technology in place to reduce our dependency on energy intensive inputs and enable us to continue to produce food and fibre at affordable prices," Mr Laurie concluded.

Contact:

Amanda Barwick (Media Manager) 0428 400 736
Ellen McNamara (Media Officer) 0429 990 218

Celebrate | Reflect | Connect



