Better Rainfall Forecasts for Grain Growers

A project conducted through the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, in partnership with GrainGrowers and supported by funding from the Australian Research Council.

What are we collecting?

Farm rainfall records

We know a lot of farmers have good rainfall records, which they use to manage their crops. We believe that this data also represents a resource for all Australian farmers to better understand rainfall variability. By using rainfall data from many sites, we hope to achieve two things: be able to better detect patterns in rainfall in space and time; and to develop methods to forecast seasonal rainfall amounts. The planned final forecast model will be at a 1x1 km spatial grid. Once developed into an application, it will give growers more spatially accurate forecasts for their property, equipping them with better information to make planting and management decisions.

What will we provide in exchange for your data?

- Regular updates about the project progress.
- Individualised reports, containing results of the historical analysis and feedback on historical cropping windows, as we develop the forecast and methods.
- Be part of the first group to receive seasonal rainfall forecasts under this project.

What we plan to do with your data during the project:

- Maintain the data in a secure database at the University of Sydney.
- Provide historical analysis and local perspective to your data as we develop methods of analysis and presentation, such as patterns in rainfall in time (i.e. “What happened last time it was like this?”).
- At the end of the project, using GrainGrowers services, allow growers to see rainfall data forecasts for their own property on an interactive internet platform.

http://tinyurl.com/gga-project