



Furracabad Farm Cluster

The aim of this project was to “develop an innovative way of managing a collective group of farms and in doing so create new ways to use human, natural, built and community resources to provide a more enriched environment for the stakeholders”. This “innovative way” was to involve “a syndicate of farms all managed under one entity to achieve efficiencies and develop better employment, social and economic conditions for the stakeholders and the surrounding community”.

Background

The ‘Furracabad Farm Cluster’ project identified and documented lessons learnt in efforts to catalyse establishment of a common property farming enterprise centred on the Furracabad Valley near Glen Innes in the northern tablelands of New South Wales, Australia. The cluster concept grew from successful experiences of the farmers initiating the project in working together to address shared environmental issues.

The ‘Commons’ Model

The project appraised the potential of common property or ‘commons’ farming to consolidate their environmental achievements as well as deliver them economic and social benefits. Preliminary budgeting indicated that such an arrangement would benefit the participating farmers economically. A range of social advantages were also identified by the farmers involved.



Outcomes

It was not possible during the nine month life of the project to obtain the critical mass of farmer commitment needed to implement such an innovative arrangement. Even so, the project succeeded in strengthening awareness and understanding of the concept of common property farming and firming up a structure through which it could be implemented.



Project Details

Project Title: “The Future of Farming - Farmers working together for long-term economic, social & environmental sustainability”
Funding Organisation: GLENRAC - Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Budget: \$31,000

Completion Date: October 2003

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