TNQ Drought Hub programs aligned with Regional Soils Coordinator delivery

Soil health • capability • practice adoption • drought resilience



Dhiraj Gajera, Regional Soil Coordinator

The Regional Soils Coordinators and the Smart Soils National Community of Practice are supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.

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Experience-Background

- Bachelor in Agricultural Science 1986
- 12 years with Ciba-Geigy-Novartis-Syngenta Crop Protection.
- 13 years in NZ small crop agronomy-crop production
- 10 years in WA-QLD agronomy-Avocados-sugarcane-small crops
- 4 plus year with JCU as a Regional Soil Coordinator covering north Queensland.
- Soil Health and Biology Biodiversity Focused.

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Regional Soils Coordinator program

TNQ Drought Hub

Purpose

Make soil health central to productive, sustainable and drought-resilient farming systems.

Connect

Producers, researchers, extension, NRM, communities and service providers.

Build capability

Workshops, field demonstrations, training and Communities of Practice.

Enable adoption

Practical soil assessment, current evidence and management tools.

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TNQ Hub program alignment

RSC work is cross-cutting, with strongest links to capacity and agricultural systems

Primary alignment

Building Human Capacity

Workshops, field learning, early-career training and adviser capability.

Primary alignment

Transformational Agricultural Systems

Soil diagnostics, testing and climate-smart management decisions.

Strong supporting alignment

Sustainable Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Enterprise

First Nations partnerships, rangers, food security and local enterprise.

Supporting alignment

Innovation & Commercialisation

Demonstrations, tools, soil diagnostics and emerging practices.

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Forward delivery priorities

Suggested actions for the next 6–12 months

1	**Place-based learning**	Select field-day topics from local soil constraints and producer priorities.
2	**Soil data to decisions**	Link testing and diagnosis to management trials, monitoring and review.
3	**First Nations co-design**	Embed local priorities and governance in soil, food-security and enterprise activities.
4	**Measure outcomes**	Track participation, skills, soil-test use, practice trials and partnerships.

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