



NORTHERN AUSTRALIA FOOD FUTURES

CONFERENCE 2016

FARMING SUCCESS AT FOOD FUTURES 2016

11-13 April - Darwin Northern Territory

The Northern Australia Food Futures conference in Darwin 11-13 April 2016 features successful northern farmers from the Northern Territory, North Western Australia and North West Queensland. Failure haunts our past in northern agriculture however these farmers demonstrate success in northern agriculture is possible, if we get the thinking right. Successful farmers have been operating in the north for many years, with gross value of production over \$200 million from NT and Ord farmers.

Vietnamese farmers in the Darwin rural area demonstrate success against all odds. Turnover now exceeds \$50 million with over 100 successful farmers and some of the largest farms owned by Vietnamese and Cambodian farmers.

They came as refugees by boat in the 1980s, with no English, no money, no access to bank finance; they grew crops no one grew before, and had little knowledge of the area. They had little help from anyone with land and water resources and infrastructure. Markets and economics drove their success with funding and support from the markets in Sydney and Melbourne.

Farmers on stage speaking about their success adds immeasurable credibility and valuable input to Food Futures 2016. The diverse mix of farmers, politicians and government agencies was one of the most noted highlights of Food Futures 2014.

NT farmers presenting at Food Futures 2016 include Kane Youngusband, growing melons in Mataranka and south of Broome, and Gavin Scurr growing mangoes and pineapples in Darwin, Katherine and Mataranka, to fit with his supply and marketing from his farming enterprises across Queensland.

Successful Ord farmers include David Menzel, large successful melon grower on the Ord and Rob Boshammer, who has a long history of successful farming on the Ord, most recently one of people behind chia as a crop, but also in melons, sugar and sandalwood. Jim Engelke, General Manager of KAI, has been involved on the Ord and the North West for many years. He leads the development of Ord stage 2 by the Chinese investment group. Along with Mr Yin, the Chinese head in Australia, KAI will talk about the realities of foreign investment in agriculture.

Developing farming on pastoral properties will be the subject of discussion by Paul Ryan of Olive Vale Station in the Cape, Phil Hams from GoGo Station, Fitzroy River WA, and Bruce White of Mt Keppler Station (NT) growing feed rice on the Adelaide River floodplains.

And developing farming on Indigenous lands will feature with speakers including Vin Lange from Centerfarm in Alice Springs, Des Hill, Chair of the MG Corporation in Kununurra, a key partner in Ord Stage 2 with KAI, and Lynette Shaw from Gooniyandi Corporation at Fitzroy Crossing working with Phil Hams at GoGo Station.

More information is available at the Food Futures website: www.foodfuturesntfarmers.org.au

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PROGRAM

April 11
Welcome Reception

April 12
Conference Day 1
Conference Dinner

April 13
Conference Day 2

Join The Conversation



#FoodFutures16





SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Key thinkers from around Australia and internationally will participate in panel discussions and share their experiences and knowledge with delegates.



Kane Younghusband,
NT Farmer



Jim Engelke,
Kimberley
Agricultural
Investment



Dr Beth Woods,
Department of
Agriculture and
Fisheries



**Professor Simon
Maddocks,**
Charles Darwin
University



Jack Archer,
Regional Australia
Institute

For a full list of speakers attending the Conference please visit: <http://www.foodfuturesntfarmers.org.au/speaker>

Conference delegates found the 2014 Food Futures beneficial and here is what some participants said about the event:

“ Food Futures 2014 was one of the best conferences I’ve attended. The format was innovative, with lots of good ideas. There was an excellent mix of farmers, politicians and government on the stage.”

Gavin Scurr, Managing Director Pinata Farms

“ Food Futures 2014 was a great opportunity to hear what’s happening across the north in agriculture. It was great to hear from farmers who have succeeded in the north. A very well run conference.”

Fritz Bolton Ord farmer and Chairman OrdCo.

“ Vanderfield sponsored Food Futures 2014 – a great event. We are committed to sponsoring Food Futures 2016. See you there.”

Aaron Heath, General Manager, Vanderfield - Darwin, Katherine, Kununurra

“ I consider the Food Futures Conference to have been one of the best-organised events in horticulture and agriculture in Australia. High caliber speakers and participants, especially from the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia all contributed to an exciting and informative program. This event in 2016 is not to be missed; attendees will find sessions informative and networking to be extremely worthwhile.”

Richard J Mulcahy CEO AUSVEG Limited



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