

## Newsletter

### MAIN 2013 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Presentation of four NZ Case Studies to perfect the design of the UN's FAO\* sustainability assessment (SAFA) tool.
- Development of the NZ Winegrowers prototype fast tracked with success.
- Development of a Power Analysis Toolkit to increase reliability and reduce costs of monitoring.
- Development of an agro-environmental integrity framework.

\* FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation



### Main Industry and Research Partners

### OUR PROJECT

The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard project is built on a core of existing capability and knowledge of the **Agriculture Research Group On Sustainability (ARGOS)** researchers, supplemented by additional specialist researchers and their international networks to build a practical tool for sustainability assessment, auditing, reporting and learning. The project research partners include the AgriBusiness Group, AERU at Lincoln University, Centre for Sustainability at the University of Otago, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Ngāi Tahu, Lincoln Agritech, SCION, 1000 Minds and Ecosystems Consultants.

The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard project is a six-year research programme which started in October 2012. It is funded by the **Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment** as well as industry partners.

The **industry partners** include New Zealand Winegrowers, Zespri International and other kiwifruit partners (DMS, Trevelyans, Apata, OPAC, PlusGroup, Te Awanui Huka Pak), iwi forestry trusts, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and BioGro New Zealand.

The main project objective is to co-develop – with the growers and industry partners – a package of on-line user-friendly tools to help facilitate change through **sustainability assessment and reporting that meets market and regulatory demands**. These web-based tools will facilitate uploading of regular monitoring results and instantly summarise and report back trends to the producers, to industry representatives, and to agriculture regulators and policy makers at regional and national government levels. The Dashboards will also provide decision support for businesses, land owners and managers to make smart and cost effective choices that will enhance their overall sustainability performance – we want to turn compliance requirements into learning opportunities for sustainability.

The dashboard tools and enhanced information flows will help producers to optimise their overall farm performance including productivity/profitability while protecting environmental and social values. They will **reduce monitoring and regulatory costs, build consumer trust**, secure market access. Through great transparency, the project should garner support from the wider New Zealand society by verification and regular reporting of standardised sustainability criteria.

### Contacts

- *Programme Leader: Jon Manhire, The AgriBusiness Group (jon@agribusinessgroup.com)*
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The  
New Zealand  
Sustainability Dashboard



ARGOS

## TWO SECTOR PROTOTYPES ALREADY LAUNCHED

The pilot trial with NZ  
Winegrowers is finalized.

The first version of the  
Kiwifruit prototype will be  
delivered early 2014.

The other sectors are on-  
going and the plans will be  
finalized soon for first  
delivery in 2014.



**NZ Winegrowers and  
Sustainability**

## A NEW LOGO AND A NEW WEBSITE

The NZ Sustainability Dashboard (NZSD) project is online: [www.nzdashboard.org.nz](http://www.nzdashboard.org.nz). Check the “News” section for updates ! Please note that it is still under construction.

A new logo has been created (see above). It represents the four main pillars of Sustainability, as recommended by FAO SAFA: **Good Governance**, **Economic resilience**, **Social well-being** and **Agro-Environmental integrity**. The NZSD project is a project from the **ARGOS Research Group**.

All external reports are available online. Internal reports for stakeholders are available through a shared google drive. If you need to access these, please send a request to [isabelle@agribusinessgroup.com](mailto:isabelle@agribusinessgroup.com).

## WORKSHOPS

Past: Team Workshop held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2013

Coming soon (date and location to be confirmed)

- Joint advisory group workshop in March 2014
- Next Team and Stakeholders Workshop in June 2014

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*“Data from the Dashboard will add substance to our industry's sustainability credentials by providing measurable proofs. The days of saying 'I'm green, believe me' are gone. You have to be able to prove that you are. The indicators are practical, but they are also scientifically defensible.” Philip Manson, NZ Winegrowers*

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## SECTORS UPDATE

**Wine** – A successful pilot trial was run with 35 users. This started in September, with an evaluation in October and feedback in November. The implementation phase has started with deployment for all members (more than 1000) planned for April 2014.

**Kiwifruit** (Zespri and 6 other partners: DMS, Apata, Te Awanui, Trevelyan's, OPAC, Plus Group) – the prototype will be delivered by steps in 2014: first for the packhouses, and then for growers– The software is being developed by Lincoln Agritech.

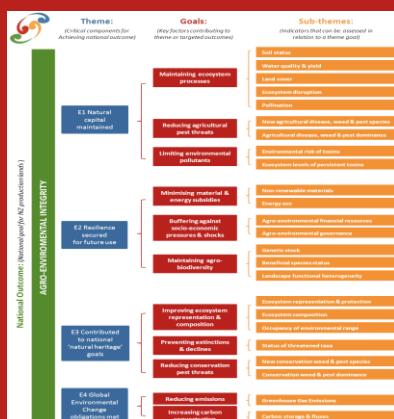
**Ngāi Tahu** – Completion of design of the framework and indicators for the Ngāi Tahu Dashboard.

**Forestry** – The first case study partners have been recruited into the project and the design of the prototype will start in 2014.



## RESEARCH UPDATE

- Global Sustainability framework
- Indigenous indicators
- Power Analysis Toolkit



**Agro-environmental integrity framework (click to open)**

## MAIN RESEARCH UPDATE

A **global sustainability framework** considering Governance, Economic, Environment and Social categories has been developed for NZ. This will be continuously improved during the project by reviewing international frameworks and getting feedback from the sectors prototypes. The framework for the Agro-environmental integrity dimension has been harmonised with the frameworks currently being tested by DOC and Regional Councils so that primary produces, regulators and government can team up to measure and improve sustainability across the entire landscape.

The **“Indigenous Sustainability Indicators for Māori Enterprise in Farming and Fishing”** report has been issued by John Reid and Tremane Barr making the links between the Māori values and KPI reporting. The main focus identifies and evaluates value-guided practices coming from Māori views and values, and then linking them to monitoring indicators.

A prototype of the **“Power Analysis Toolkit”** has been developed. The final product will allow industry to test the design of monitoring protocols to ensure that they will be able to measure trends in sustainability KPIs and to detect whether critical risk thresholds have been breached. The tool allows the industry and growers to minimise cost while providing scientifically defensible metrics to verify sustainable performance. The tool will be flexible and may have worldwide application in varied business and environmental management applications beyond NZSD.

## 2013 EXTERNAL RESEARCH REPORTS

*Click on the Report names to open*

- 🌐 The New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard: Unified monitoring and learning for sustainable agriculture in New Zealand. **(13/01)**
- 🌐 Evaluating the ARGOS soil monitoring scheme on kiwifruit orchards. **(13/02)**
- 🌐 A survey of Sustainability Dashboards in use internationally. **(13/03)**
- 🌐 Sustainability trends in key overseas markets to New Zealand and the KPI identification. **(13/04).**
- 🌐 Business Improvement Sustainability Frameworks and Indicators: Literature Review. **(13/05)**
- 🌐 Indigenous sustainability indicators for Māori farming and fishing enterprises: a theoretical framework. **(13/06)**
- 🌐 Design criteria for effective monitoring of environmental sustainability in New Zealand’s production landscapes **(13/07)**
- 🌐 Stocktake of Decision Support Tools available to New Zealand Primary Industries. **(13/08)**
- 🌐 Environmental monitoring for sustainable land management in New Zealand’s production landscapes. **(13/10)**
- 🌐 International research collaboration for agricultural sustainability: opportunities for partnership with the New Zealand Sustainability Dashboard. **(13/11)**



## LATEST NEWS

Professor Caroline Saunders was invited to the True-Cost Accounting in Food & Farming conference in London (4-6 Dec) and presented a paper 'Valuing Biodiversity in Agro-Ecosystems'. For more information, check our News.



## NEWS

### **October 2013:**

NZ Winegrowers Media Release and Radio interview by Philip Manson (General Manager Sustainability at NZ Winegrowers): RadioNZ Morning Rural News on the 7th of October 2013 at 6:53.

### **September 2013:**

Media release: Dashboard programme and pilot trial with Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand (SWNZ)

### **August 2013:**

Henrik Moller, CSAFE: 50 minute Access Radio interview in the Sustainable Lens [Resilience on Radio] series

### **March 2013:**

Jon Manhire, of The Agribusiness Group, was part of the panel at the Annual Kim Hill debate on 'The Ultimate Balancing Act' hosted at Lincoln University. Debate: As consumers demand traceability, sustainability, quality and competitive pricing, how can producers keep up without degrading our natural resources and native biodiversity for generations to come?

## COLLABORATIONS

**NZ Research Collaboration:** The NZ Sustainability Dashboard project has established some links with the project: **Maximising Export Returns for New Zealand's Biological Industries**. The Science Leader is Professor Caroline Saunders, who is also part of the Dashboard project. Find more information on the Maximising Export Returns project [here](#).

## PRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE NZSD AT DIFFERENT CONFERENCES

*From one or more team members for the last 12 months (selected examples):*

-  BusinessNZ, Food and Beverage Road Show, Napier, October 2012
-  NZ Ecological Society Conference. Lincoln, November 2012
-  Annual Meeting of the Agri-food Research Network, AgriFood XIX and XX conferences, Massey University in December 2012 and University of Melbourne in December 2013.
-  University of Bern, Department of Integrative Biology in March 2013.
-  FAO SAFA workshop in Rome in March 2013.
-  87th Annual Conference of the Agricultural Economics Society, University of Warwick, UK in April 2013.
-  SWNZ Annual workshops in May and June 2013.
-  IPBES/UNESCO - Participation in Inter-government Platform for Biodiversity & Ecosystems Services workshop in June 2013.
-  NETS 2013 Conference, Shantytown, New Zealand in July 2013.
-  Māori forestry forum in August 2013.
-  APEN conference, Lincoln University (Australasia Pacific Extension Network) in August 2013.
-  NZARES, Lincoln University (NZ Agriculture and Resource Economics Society) in August 2013.

