

## **The Sustainability Dashboard, Agribusiness**

\$10,276,662 over 6 years

The proposal:

The NZ Sustainability Dashboard project is a sustainability assessment and reporting tool in partnership with 5 primary industry sectors. The tool is primarily being developed to assist farmers/growers with the rational management of the large amounts of information available and to assist them with their subsequent management decisions. It will also assist them comply with the ever increasing demands for market and regulatory reporting.

It will be a resource for industry to assist with the monitoring, reporting and response to their relevant sustainability issues. The Dashboard will provide an information 'clearing house' for linking existing data sources and software applications and manage the reporting of this information through the use of Key Performance Indicators.

The Dashboard will be flexible in that it will be tailored to meet the specific issues and capabilities of different industries. It will include customization options such as; visualization options; capabilities for use in product traceability; for undertaking surveys of users as well as include a range of decision support module options. The Dashboard web application will be designed so it can be quickly integrated into an industry/sector's existing IT platform and infrastructure and this will facilitate rapid uptake.

The research programme is built on a core of existing capability and knowledge based within the ARGOS researchers who will be complemented by additional specialist researchers. It is anticipated that the use of the tool and enhanced information flows resulting from it will assist farmers/growers optimise their overall farm performance including productivity/profitability while protecting environmental and social values.

It will reduce monitoring and regulatory costs, build consumer trust, secure market access and garner support from wider NZ society by verification and regular reporting of standardised sustainability criteria.