



# ***Soil Carbon and Nitrogen***



**MICHAEL EYRES**  
**INJEKTA FIELD SYSTEMS 2013**



**Australian Grain Industry Conference – Melbourne 2013**

# Terrain Productivity Assessment





# Soil Condition





# All Soil Types





# Field Evaluation





# “The evidence is always there”



# Climate Shift is on !



**ADAPTION TO VARIATION (SEASONAL AND LONG TERM)**

**GREATER FOCUS ON SOIL CONDITION**

**USE CARBON AND NITROGEN AS BASE TEMPLATE TO GOVERN  
ADAPTIVE PROCESSES**

# Carbon and Nitrogen Outcomes



1. MORE GRAIN
2. BETTER QUALITY GRAIN
3. MORE CROP RESILIENCE TO STRESS (FROST, DISEASE)
4. WIDER RANGE OF SUCCESSFUL CULTIVARS USED
5. SOIL STRUCTURAL STABILITY = WUE (S3A = WUE)

**WUE**

Water



**NUE**

Nutrients



**SUE**

Soil



# Management Decisions

*The Decision Agriculture Platform*



1. TERRAIN PRODUCTIVITY ASSESSMENT
2. SOIL STRUCTURAL STABILITY ASSESSMENT
3. LIQUID DELIVERY SYSTEMS
4. CROP PRODUCTIVITY ASSESSMENT
5. YIELD AND QUALITY DATA (CORRELATED)
6. SCARE MAPPING : (SOIL CONDITION ANALYSIS  
REGRESSION EVALUATION)

# Tools at Disposal



1. FARMER CONCERN AND INTEREST !!
2. CONSERVATION TILLAGE EQUIPMENT (GPS)
3. SOIL & PLANT SCIENCE RESOURCES
4. SCALE & CAPACITY OF AGRICULTURE
5. LIQUID DELIVERY SYSTEMS
6. EVALUATION – SCARE MAPPING & S3A
7. ASSESSMENT – YIELD MAPPING, GIS, EM38

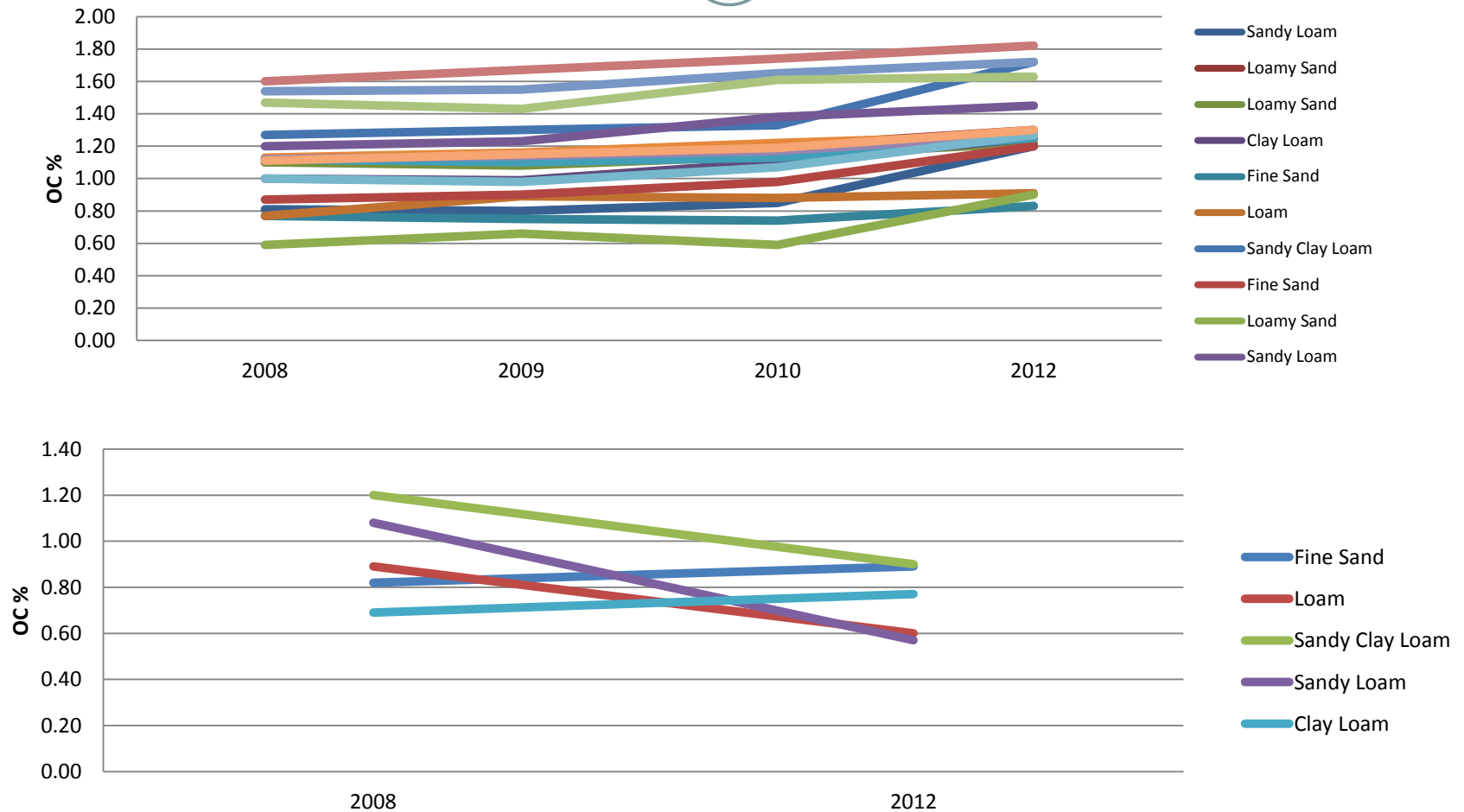


# The Factors



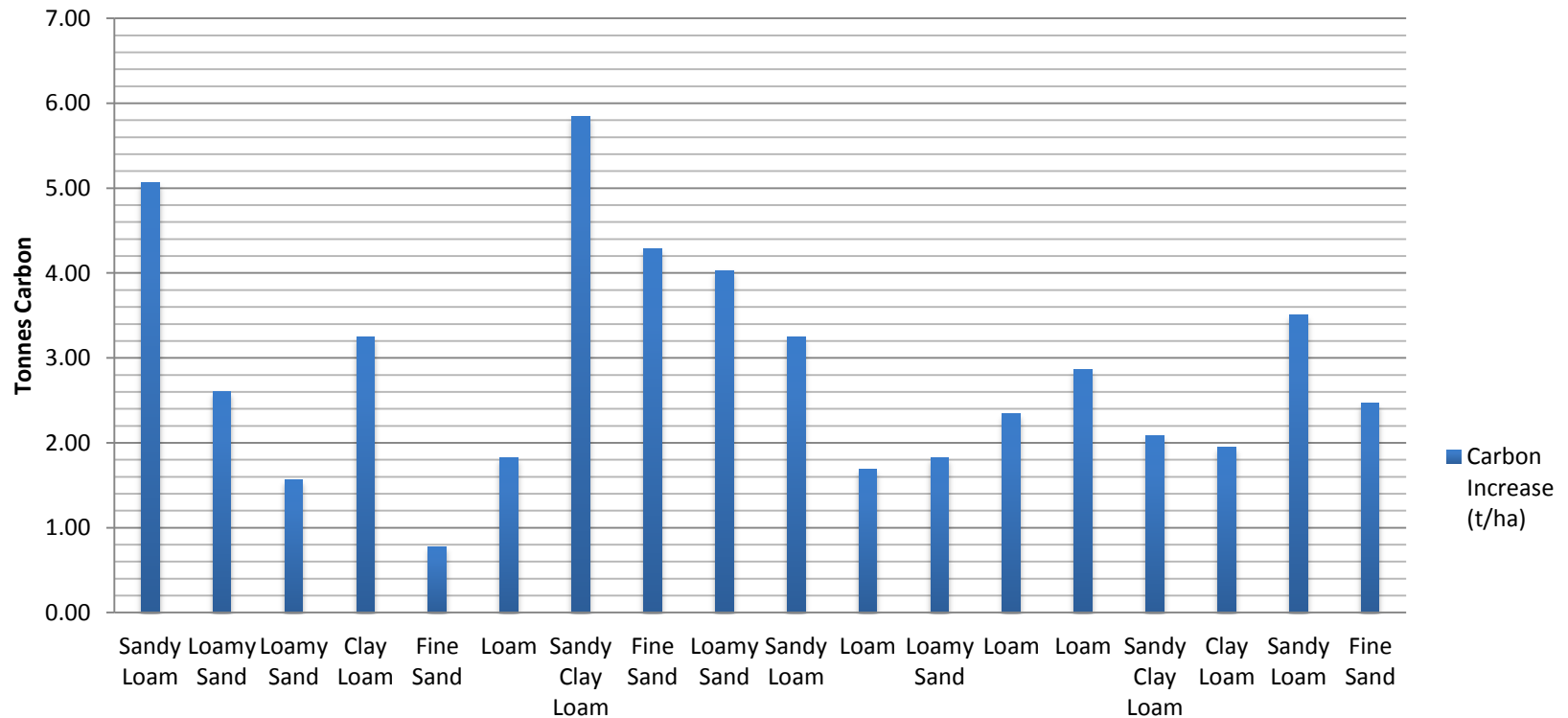
1. NON – JUDICIOUS USE OF N AND P
2. SECONDARY NUTRIENT LIMITS (K, S, MG, CA)
3. MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCY & EFFICIENCY
4. HERBICIDE BURDENS (SHORT AND LONG TERM)
5. SOIL DEGRADATION (SOIL STRUCTURAL STABILITY)

# 10 Years of Data (WA)

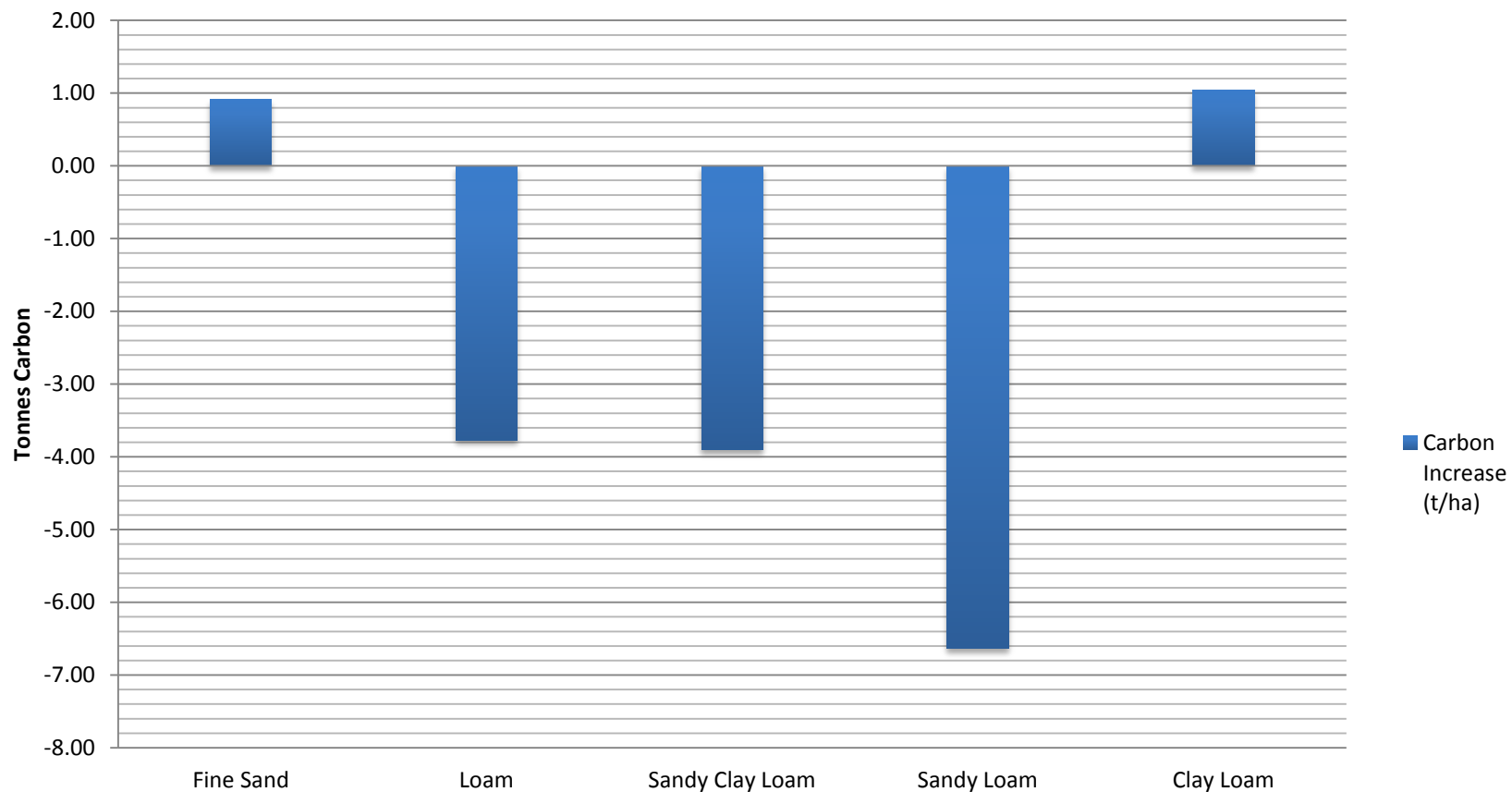




# Management Change Sites



# Control Sites – Standard Practice

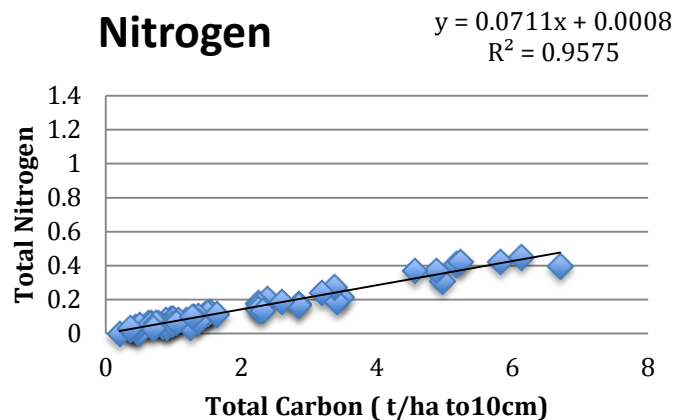




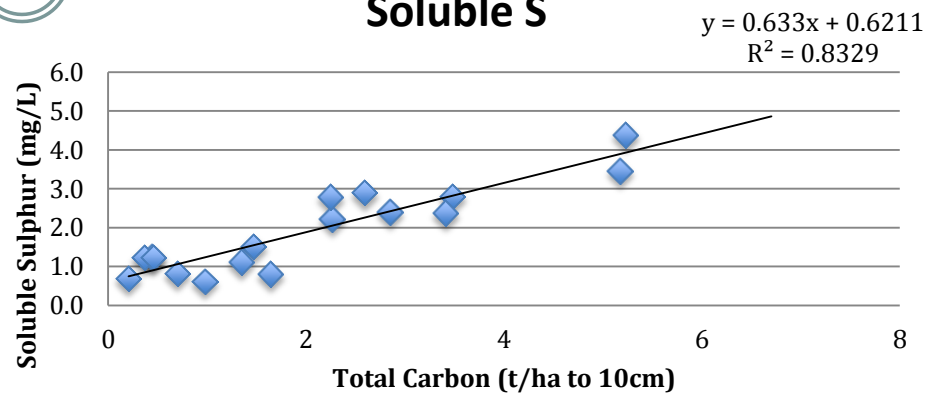
# Soil Structural Stability Data



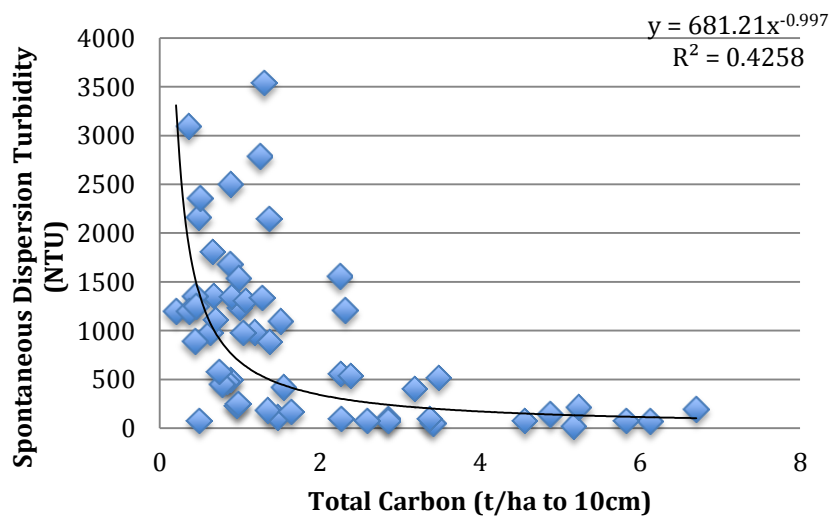
**Total Carbon :Total Nitrogen**



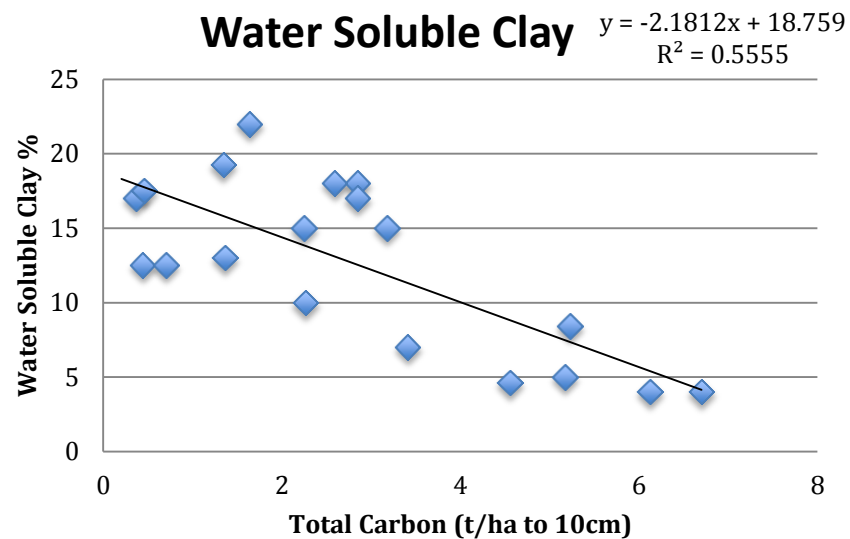
**Soluble S**



**Turbidity - Spontaneous (NTU)**



**Water Soluble Clay**



# Case Studies - 2013

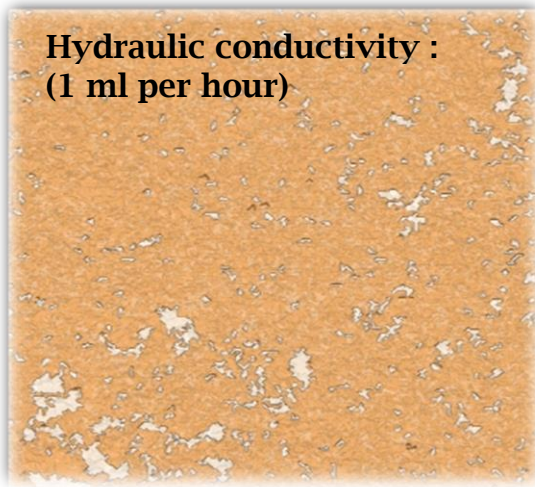


# Porosity – Water Movement & Oxygen (CT)

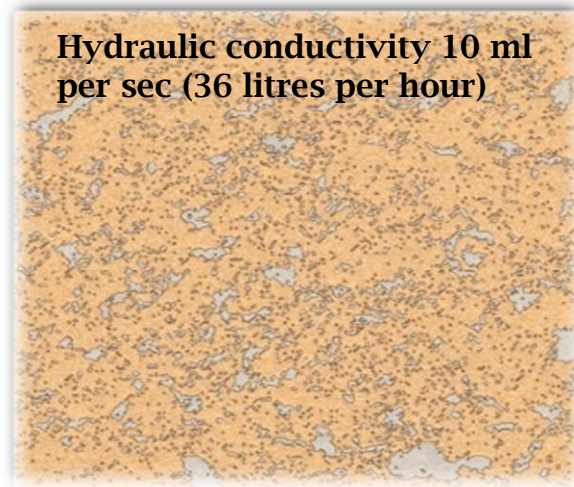


Cross section  
treated with  
**Water Only**

Hydraulic conductivity :  
(1 ml per hour)

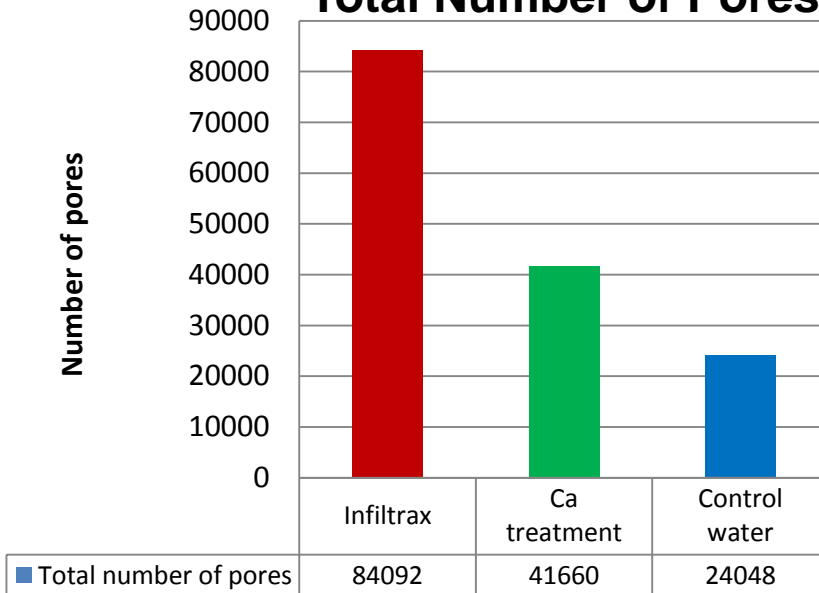


Hydraulic conductivity 10 ml  
per sec (36 litres per hour)

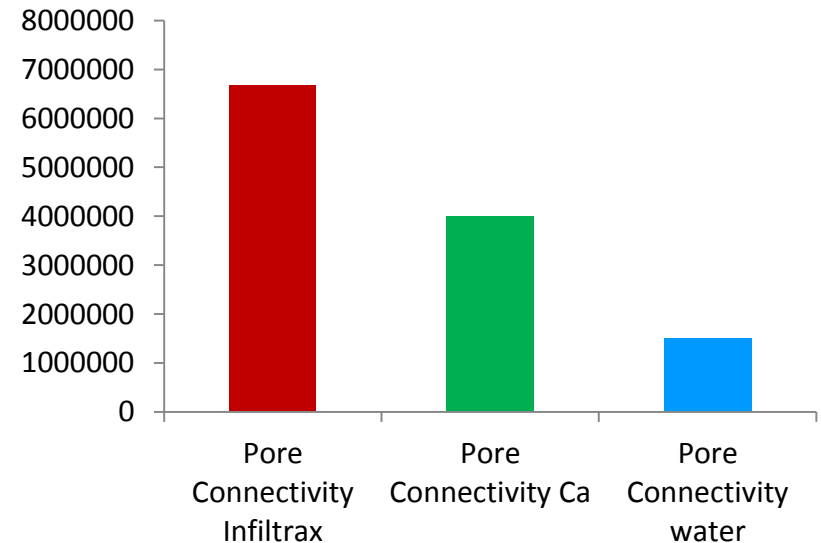


Cross section  
treated with  
**Infiltrax™**

## Total Number of Pores



## Pore Connectivity





## Mid North South Australia - A2 Soil Aggregates



Rain water after 12 hours

Infiltrax after 12 hours

## Forbes, Australia - A2 Soil Aggregates



## Emerson Dispersion



**Water**

Aggregates immersed in water without disturbance



**Infiltrax**

Aggregates immersed in Infiltrax solution





Capture & store every rainfall event  
-Water Use Efficiency (**WUE**)

Soil Use Efficiency (**SUE**)

Increased Root Development  
-Increased Carbon

Nitrogen Stabilisation –  $N_2O$   
- Nutrient Use Efficiency (**NUE**)

Reduce Erosional loss of Carbon



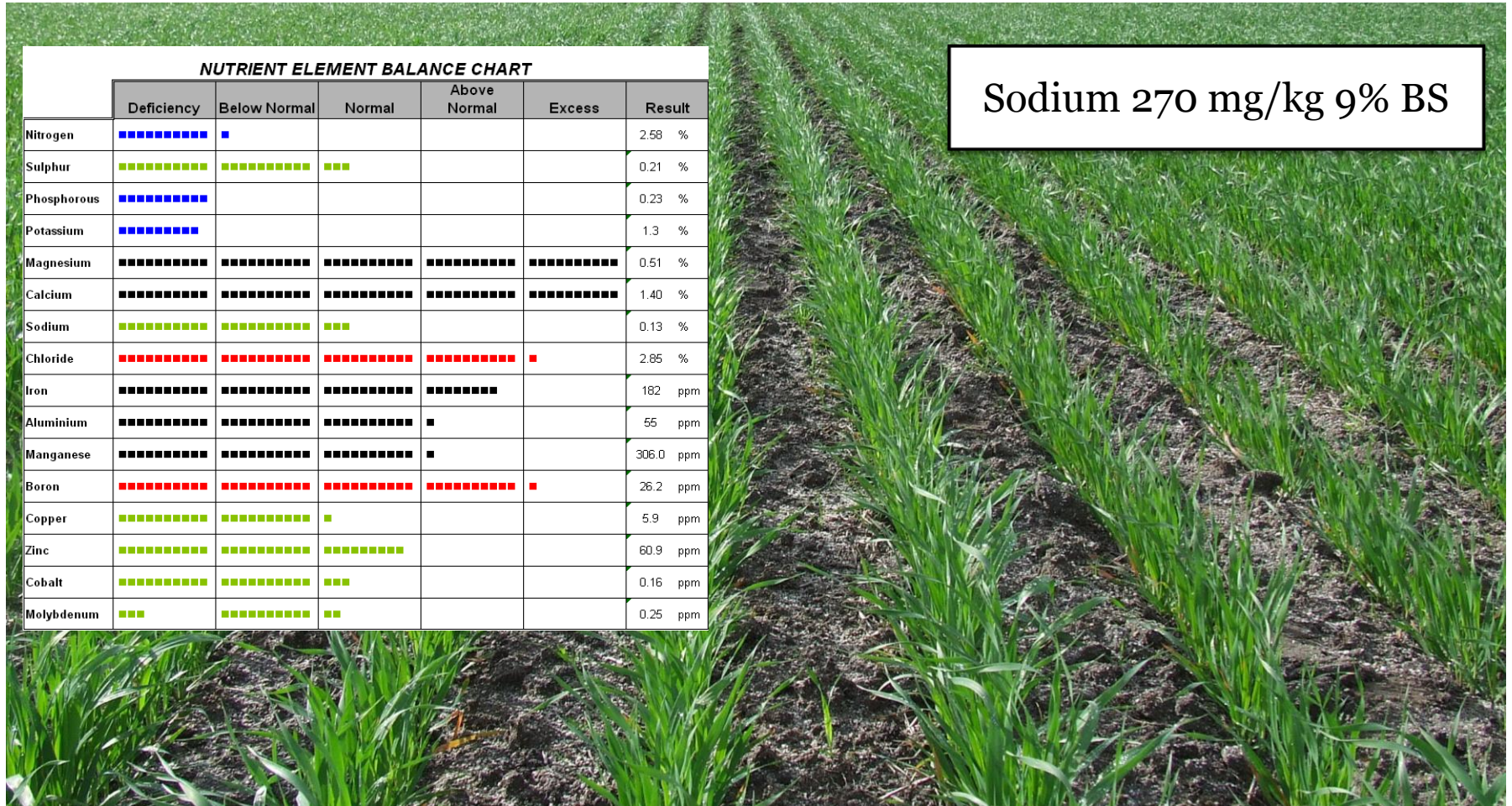


# Trial Areas Sown – Yield and Quality

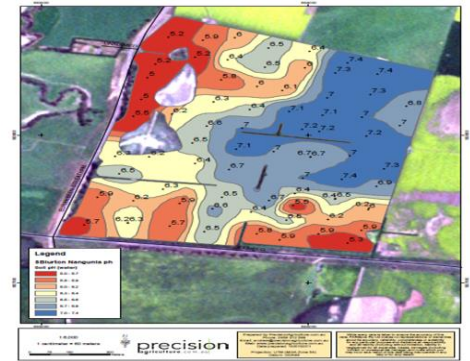
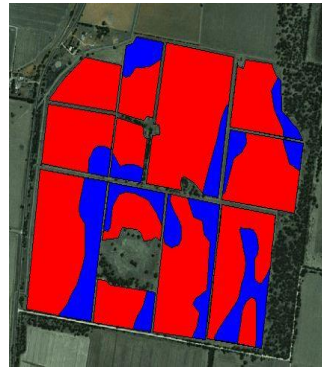
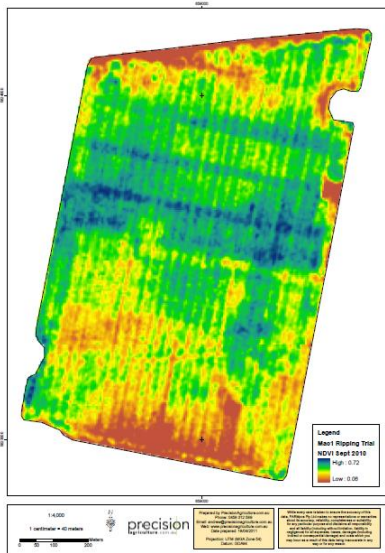




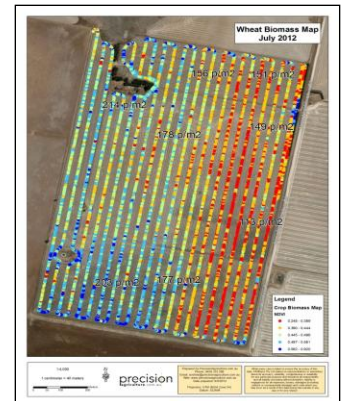
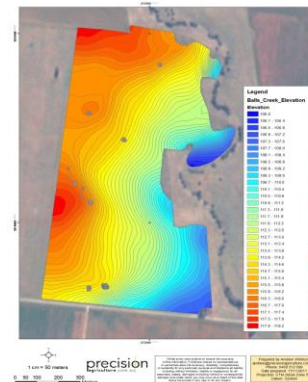
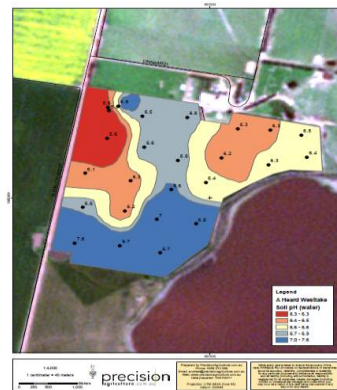
# The Tools Available



# The Technology Exists



precision  
agriculture.com.au





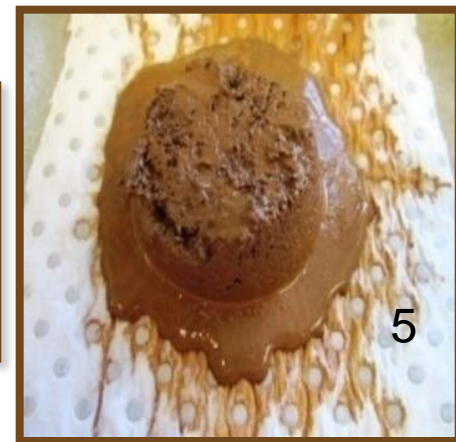
# The Equipment Exists





# The Science Exists

Urrbrae Soil, South Australia, Waite Institute



<b>CROSS</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>EC (dS/m)</b>	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.017</b>	<b>0.013</b>
		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>Zeta</b>	<b>-49.4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>-55.9</b>
		<b>49.6</b>	<b>50.5</b>		
<b>Turbid</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1363</b>



Spontaneous  
dispersion

- Clay particles with high adsorbed monovalent cations are separated from the aggregates

Dr Alla Marchuk

# The Accuracy Exists

*Row by Row*





# The Placement Exists

*Second by Second*



Single Stream  
Convergent Flow  
Dual Delivery  
Variable Direct Inject (MP)





# The Endeavour Exists



# Will the Grains Industry Exist



**YES** ....IF IT ADAPTS TO CLIMATE SHIFT

**YES**....IF WE LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT SOIL CONDITION

**YES** ....IF WE UNDERSTAND SOIL BEHAVIOUR

**YES**....IF WE USE AND UNDERSTAND THE TOOLS WE HAVE

**YES**....IF WE MATCH SOIL AND PLANT DATA

**YES**....SLOW DOWN ON “FRENETIC GENETICS” !!

# Summary



- 1. THE TECHNOLOGY EXISTS**
- 2. THE EQUIPMENT EXISTS**
- 3. THE SCIENCE EXISTS**
- 4. THE ACCURACY EXISTS**
- 5. THE PLACEMENT EXISTS**
- 6. THE ENDEAVOUR EXISTS**
- 7. WILL THE GRAINS INDUSTRY EXIST?**