

Sustainable solutions for sandy soils

Join the soil resilience research

If you're in the West Midlands, take part in the research to better understand sandy soils.

Led by the department, with oversight from Edith Cowan University (ECU), this research is investigating how soil health, groundcover and productivity interact over time on sandy soils.

Many farmers recognise the problem: areas with similar soils, rainfall and management can perform very differently. Increasing groundcover can play a critical role in improving soil resilience, keeping sandy soils productive by supporting soil biology and maintaining the soil functions that underpin future crop and pasture growth.

About the research

- Compare sandy paddocks with different long-term groundcover and productivity histories.
- Measure soil health using nationally recognised soil monitoring standards and practical indicators relevant to farming systems.
- Examine how soil biological, physical and chemical properties relate to resilience under a changing climate.

Benefits to farmers

- Gain a deeper understanding of what is influencing production on sandy soils.
- Learn alongside researchers as the investigation unfolds.
- Contribute to research that will inform future farm management.
- Receive interpreted soil tests undertaken as part of the research.



Project area in the West Midlands



What does participation involve?

Participating farmers are asked to:

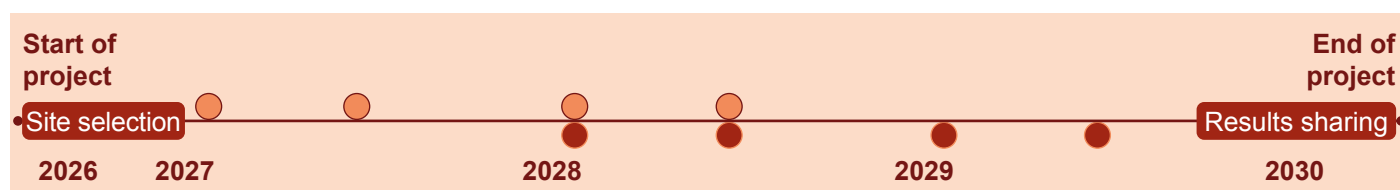
- Allow access to selected paddocks for soil and field measurements (2 to 3 times a year over 2 years).
- Provide background information on management history and local knowledge to the research team.
- Contribute to discussions with the researchers as results and insights emerge.

Fieldwork and analysis will be conducted by department and ECU researchers, with results interpreted in the context of local farming systems to understand the ecological system.



Timeline

The project will run until 2030, with various sampling points along the way.



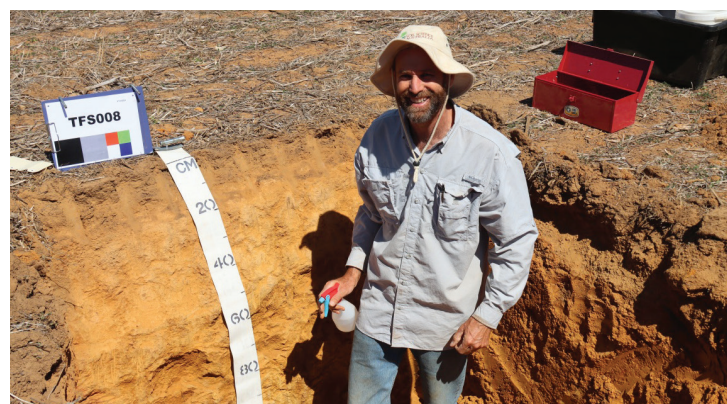
Round 1 host sampling ●

Round 2 host sampling ●

Who can be involved?

We're looking for growers in the project area with:

- Sandy soils (pale deep sands) with groundcover persistence issues.
- Nearby areas of productive land with the same soil type (own or neighbouring land).
- Nearby areas of native bushland.
- Cropping, grazing or mixed systems.
- An interest in understanding long-term soil and system resilience.



For more information about the project, scan the QR code or go to the webpage dpird.wa.gov.au/sandy-soils:



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Important disclaimer

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