



TASMANIAN SEED INDUSTRY GROUP INC

From the IHSG workshop in Methven to the formation of the Tasmanian Seed Industry Group (TSIG)

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The origins of TSIG

2013

IHSG Workshop in Methven, NZ

- Attended by Robert Dent (seed producer and breeder, Ardent Seeds) and Bramwell Heazlewood (seed producer and agronomist, Seeds Management).
- Interest in international Moddus® research, which had been tried in Tasmania with varying results.

2014

Tasmanian Pasture Seed Conference

- Two-day workshop held in Launceston, Tasmania.
- Organised by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.
- Variety of Australian and International guest speakers.
- Decision made to start a not-for-profit industry organisation representing the whole Tasmanian seed production industry, from farmers to agronomists, seed companies to seed cleaners, university and government.

2015

Formation of TSIG

- TSIG formally formed in early 2015.
- Robert Dent elected as President and Bramwell Heazlewood as Treasurer.

The goal of TSIG is to identify opportunities to support the continued growth of the seed industry in Tasmania and remove any barriers to expansion.

Research & Development

- Research conducted to fine-tune pasture seed crop management practices, including the combination of Moddus® and nitrogen, grazing and water use.
- Top seed yields start to increase.
- R&D activities funded through voluntary member contributions.

2020

Recognition as peak industry body

- Appointment of Project Officer, through grant funding from the Tasmanian Government.

Research, Development & Extension

- Encouraged increased storage, drying and cleaning facilities in the state
- Promoted and ensured continued operation of the Tasmania Government's Seed Laboratory.
- Conducted trials to support minor use permits for a range of pesticides.

2022

White clover research grant funding

- Three-year project on increasing yield potential of Tasmanian white clover seed production crops, funded through the AgriFutures Australia Pasture Seeds Program.

2023

Today

- Tasmania is well regarded as a reliable place to grow temperate seed crops.
- The seed industry is worth over AU\$ 44 million gross farm gate value.
- Seed production is the second highest value non-food agricultural crop in Tasmania.
- Production has expanded, growers have become more professional, and more production companies are being attracted to Tasmania.



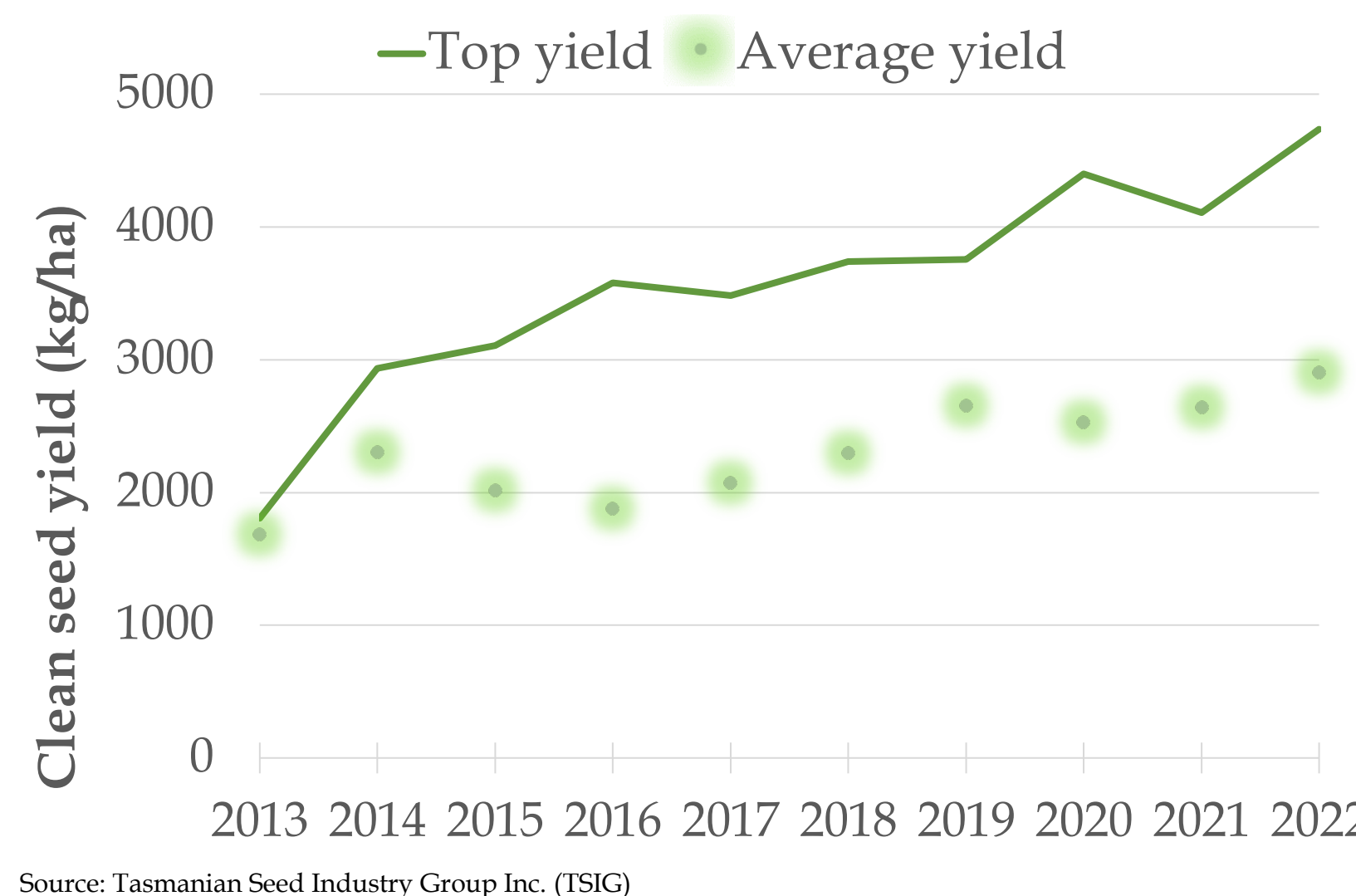
Harvesting arrowleaf clover (*Trifolium vesiculosum*)

Speakers at the 2014 Tasmanian Pasture Seed Production Conference

Tom Chastain	Oregon State University
Richard Chynoweth	Foundation for Arable Research
Murray Kelly	PGG Wrightson Seeds (NZ) (now DLF Seeds)
Warwick Green	Seed Force (now RAGT)
Chris Oldfield	Tasmanian Irrigation
Craig Myall	Heritage Seeds (now Barenbrug)
Bramwell Heazlewood	Seeds Management
Tony Butler	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Stuart Smith	Department of Agriculture

Ryegrass seed yields in Tasmania, Australia

Annual/Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*)



Source: Tasmanian Seed Industry Group Inc. (TSIG)



Scan the QR code to visit the TSIG website
www.tsig.org.au

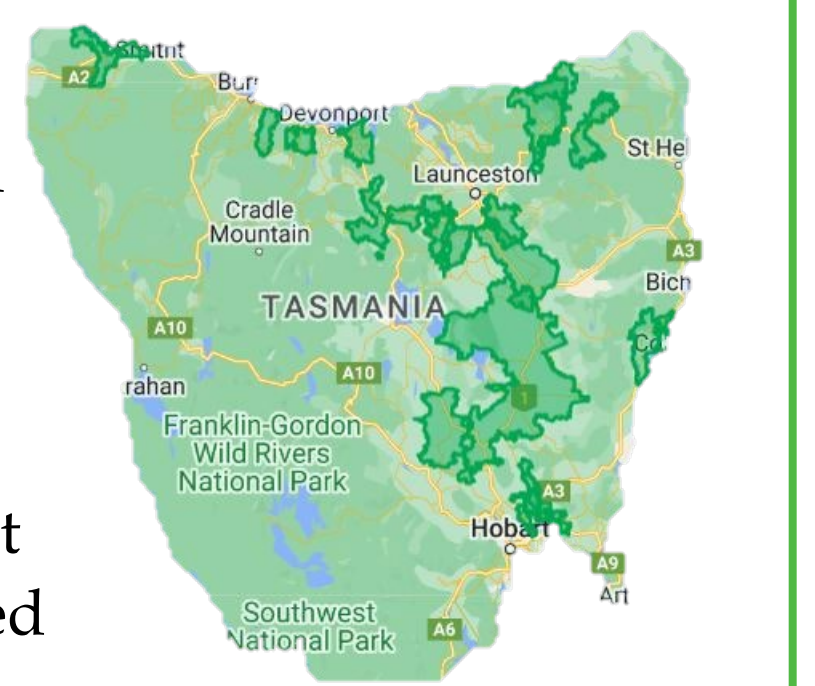
Tasmanian Irrigation

Tasmanian Irrigation is a Tasmanian Government owned body with funding from State and Federal Governments and farmers, who are working to create irrigation schemes to help mitigate climate change in Tasmania. To date there are 18 irrigation schemes in Tasmania with water entitlements of 134,000 ML with a current infrastructure value of AU\$ 492 million. There are also 10 new irrigation schemes planned.

This has been very successful as it relies on the fact that Tasmania has 1% of the land area of Australia but 13% of the fresh water.

Consequently, this has opened new irrigation areas and supplemented irrigation over a large area of land suitable for small seed production.

This has resulted in most seed crops being irrigated under centre-pivot irrigation which has increased yields and, most importantly, increased the reliability of production.



Source: www.tasmanianirrigation.com.au



Harvesting ryegrass – Summer 2023

TSIG Committee Members

The TSIG Committee is elected by TSIG members to serve on the Committee, and includes representatives from:

1. Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association
2. Tasmanian Government or the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
3. Primary producers / Farmers
4. Industry representatives
5. Any part of the seed production industry

