



# The new Research Institute for Northern Agriculture and Drought Resilience

The new Research Institute for Northern Agriculture and Drought Resilience (RINA) is a Charles Darwin University (CDU) initiative to help Northern Australia realise its potential as a food production heartland in the Asia Pacific region.

- > RINA will improve the productivity, profitability, and resilience of the primary production sector in Northern Australia.
- > It will increase Northern Australia's research capability in aquaculture, livestock, pastoral production, cropping and horticulture systems.
- > RINA will be at the front lines of tropical biosecurity innovation.

The Northern Territory is one of the most dynamic and untapped resources for Australia to grow its agricultural industry, but the region needs specialists with the expertise and leadership to turn this potential into opportunities.

Right now, the strong southern bias in agricultural research means that many advantages and opportunities of Northern Australia's agricultural future are still to be discovered.

However there has been some evidence that those willing to innovate and take chances have benefitted from Northern Australia's agricultural potential.

The Northern Territory's value of mango production reached \$128.8 million in 2019 and the Territory produces more than 50 per cent of the national mango crop, according to the NT Farmers Association.

These outcomes did not come through luck, but through opportunity, perseverance and embracing agricultural innovation.

RINA will work with farmers to identify risk and adapt innovation from knowledge banks located across the globe for the unique Northern Australian environment.

The research institute will help to evaluate opportunities in markets, to ensure a resilient supply chain, and look for value adding opportunities for rural communities.

Transforming Northern Australia's agricultural future will require people who understand what benefits and assets we have in the Territory and have the enthusiasm and determination to find innovative opportunities to exploit our competitive advantages.



**Aquaculture** – The quality of seafood from Northern Territory's fisheries are sought after around the world. Aquaculture producers are delivering the same quality in their produce, with a solid foundation for rapid growth as demand remains high.



**Biosecurity** – Northern Australia is vulnerable not just to market conditions, but also to biological threats from other regions. The proximity to Asia offers great opportunity for NT producers but that closeness could be the agriculture industries greatest threat.



**Grazing sustainability** – Northern Australia has had a long and celebrated pastoral history, but there are challenges ahead. RINA will develop methods to maintain pastoral quality and address natural resource sustainability challenges.



**Broadacre cropping** – Diversification into broadacre cropping is emerging as a key opportunity for northern pastoralists. RINA will help farmers looking to diversify into cotton, grain, irrigated vegetable industries or any other crop opportunities.

#### Partner Organisations

