

Agricultural Production Systems sIMulator (APSIM) Strategic Plan¹

Mission	Vision
<i>Developments in agricultural systems science and modelling are captured rapidly and effectively within the APSIM software framework, which is professionally developed, maintained and managed as a high quality, world class research tool.</i>	<i>APSIM will be widely used and trusted to enhance innovation in development of new or improved agricultural systems that are meeting the global demands for food and fibre security and deliver multiple indirect benefits to the environment and society.</i>

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (shorter term, 1-5 years)

	Model relevance	User Experience	Science Quality	Software Development	Business Focus	Governance
What	APSIM continually developed collaboratively to capture scientific and software advances to support changing agricultural systems and the issues they face.	APSIM software continually evolves to meet user expectations.	The science embedded in APSIM is maintained at best practice.	The software embedded in APSIM is maintained at best practice.	The financial basis of the APSIM Initiative underpins APSIM's future development and use.	Committed organisations form a Joint Venture (the APSIM Initiative ²) to promote the ongoing development and use of APSIM according to the goals and objectives.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model development follows strategic priorities in the areas of plant science, agro-ecosystems, soil science, livestock integration and whole farm systems management along with the development of the next generation APSIM. Actively seek joint projects in agreed focus areas. Engage with research partners and funding bodies to deliver agricultural systems modelling outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APSIM is freely available for public good R&D, extension and educational use (Non-commercial licensing). The model is stable and user friendly. Model developments respond to user needs, and are communicated via the web site. Users can access the science behind the model through the modified Open Source Framework). Access to appropriate resources (i.e. model documentation, training and support) to effectively use APSIM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The science in the model is relevant, salient and robust across the different parts of the agricultural systems. Science input is sought widely, science developments are subject to high standards of quality control (currently through the Reference Panel) and are well documented both on the APSIM web site and in the scientific literature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development is based on best practice software development and maintenance, is aligned with strategic directions, is affordable for APSIM Initiative partners, and sustainable into the future. APSIM Initiative partners are actively engaged, and the contributor base is broad. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial basis of the APSIM Initiative and APSIM development and support is strong. Appropriate financial and commercialisation opportunities are taken, e.g. through commercial licensing opportunities. Licence fee revenue reinvested into APSIM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The APSIM Initiative³ operates in a collegiate and inclusive manner to further the goals of APSIM, and respect the contributions of the collaborating organisations. The AI is open to, and encourages inputs from interested organisations, in relation to development and use of APSIM through avenues other than joining the AI.

¹ Revised February 2021

² Currently, the APSIM Initiative is a formal collaboration between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), The University of Queensland (UQ), the State of Queensland through its Department of Agriculture, Fisheries (DAF), AgResearch Limited (AgResearch) and University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

³ The current management structure consists of a Steering Committee, Project Officer, and Reference Panel for quality assurance.