

Drought and Climate Adaptation Program (DCAP)

What constitutes Practice Change

Jeff Coutts, Coutts J&R, March 2024



PURPOSE

The purpose of this table is to provide a more consistent definition of project impact and what constitutes change at different levels from awareness to benefits.

Level of Change	MLA Cat*	Definition <i>As a result of project activities...</i>	Examples
Awareness	A	Relevant people are aware of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the project or program; and/or this issue/opportunity the project/program is addressing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (X) participants/farm managers heard about the project through.... (X) Participants/farm managers indicated that they became more interested in addressing the issue after reading (project articles).
Capacity Gains (KASA)	B	Those who have participated in a project activity and/or accessed information or tools developed by the program have a greater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understanding of the issue/opportunity; and/or have a raised sense of its importance / potential; and/or have new skills/confidence about how to address it themselves; and /or have indicated that will take some action to follow up/take action on what they have learned/experienced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (X) farm managers who participated in the workshop assessed that they now had greater financial literacy and business skills (X) farm businesses were more confident that they could assess the best rotations. (X) farm business participants indicated that they intend to follow up/take action on the information presented at the workshop. (X) farm consultants reported that they were more confident in providing advice about (preparing/managing) for drought)
Interim Actions		Those above who have taken interim actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> studied the information that was provided sought more information/advice or training in the topic area downloaded or requested tools or information discussed this with their farm management staff trialled something to see how it might work Applied for funding to allow adoption to occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (X) farm manager workshop participants took steps to follow up on what was covered at the workshops. X% sought more information; Y% discussed and explored options with their teams; Z% applied for funding for infrastructure purchase.

Adoption/Practice Change	C	<p>Those who have taken on-farm action in their planning and/or farm business practices based on the activities, information, increased capacity and/or tools that the project has provided or directed them to.</p> <p>Those advisers who have changed their recommendations to their producer clients to facilitate recommended changes.</p>	<p>Improved Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (X) farm managers have developed or improved operational plans to improve decision-making (E.g. a Farm Business Plan, WPH&S Plan; Irrigation Plan; and similar Operation Plans) • (X) farm managers have completed a farm performance assessment checklist which is informing and monitoring improvements to their farm business <hr/> <p>On-farm change</p> <p>(X) farm managers are/have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively using a new tool or Decision Support System to inform management decisions • Changed the way or timing that a farm operation has been done • Purchased new machinery or infrastructure to improve the current farming system and/or allow changes to the system • Changed crops, stock, rotations and/or their management. • Changed workforce processes and management <p>Adviser change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Y) advisers are now incorporating the new information and tools into their advisory toolbox or workshops.
Benefits		<p>Benefits arising from the improved capacity and/or practice change in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profitability • Productivity • Social/family/staff • Environment and environmental impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X producers (or the producer in this case study or narrative) reported that as a result of the changes made, they had seen/ measured/ reported benefits from the changes [such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Being able to respond more quickly to indicators of impending drought and so saving significantly on supplementary feeding or agistment. ○ Improving crop yields and income by changing the timing of planting in line with more relevant and accurate seasonal forecasts. ○ More family time as a result of improved management strategies in drought management. ○ Reduced soil run off because of better pasture management

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***Example/explanations of MLA impact categories¹**

*The purpose of **Category A** targets is to raise awareness of the NACP and examples include presenting information on NACP at field days, calling producers directly, and emailing and connecting with other extension programs.*

***Category B** addresses improving knowledge, aspirations, skills, and attitudes regarding NACP’s goal of improving the use of weather and climate forecasts by producers. Examples of Category B include providing Climate Workshops, one-on-one meetings to install climate apps and explain use, and reaching out to other extension specialists to provide them with climate information to include in their toolbox.*

***Category C** targets address practice change. Practice change occurs when a producer decides to incorporate weather or climate information into their business plan and when other extension officers include climate information into their workshops, etc.*

¹ Coutts J&R NACP Program Review October 2022