



Excess Moisture Management

This applied research is examining individual investment options to assess farm-level and regional-level impacts of farmers' technical choices during periods of insufficient and excess (i.e., extreme) moisture using a cost-benefit framework. The RDI project team is joined with experts from the Universities of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Funding from the Manitoba Wheat and Barley Growers Association and the Manitoba Agricultural Partnership is making this two year project a possibility.

Manitoba's rapidly changing climate conditions are characterized by increased frequency and intensity of extreme moisture events. With four of the top ten Assiniboine River floods and five of the top ten Red River floods all happening in the last twenty-five years, there is clear change afoot. This new reality impacts both our agricultural community on the farm level (e.g., crop losses, delayed farm practices) as well as other residents and regional activities (e.g., loss of lives, damaged infrastructure as the effects of extreme moisture events usually extend beyond the time and place in which they occur). This research aims to better understand how farmers and related decision makers might utilize this

knowledge to make and support on-farm investment decisions related to managing times of extreme moisture.

The project includes two phases. Phase 1 saw the completion of three reports:

- Discussion Guide of Investment Options to Manage On-farm Excess Moisture.
- Discussion Guide of a Farm Model to Assess the Impact of Excess Moisture.
- Factsheet on Downstream Effects due to the 2011 Assiniboine River flood.

Phase 2 aims to validate the findings of the three activities executed in Phase 1. RDI will conduct interviews with farmers and targeted stakeholders to receive feedback on how these reports might be useful to their decision making. This research project is one of a dozen efforts examining extreme moisture. Though this research is specific to Manitoba, a team is doing similar research in Saskatchewan.

There is future potential to compare and explore similarities and differences in these research projects. The results will be available on the RDI website.

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