

# CARBON NEWS Issue 13

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## Spring Edition

#Harvest2016 is under way in many regions already so WANTFA would like to wish you a drama free harvest season. We also hope there are some better yields than predicted in the frosted areas around the wheatbelt.

Stay tuned for webinar information as we are currently organising the next round. These are a quick way of getting information to you and you don't even need to leave home. Register your interest and you can get the recorded webinar to listen to at anytime, even in the header or truck while you're waiting in the queue. Contact us if you have a specific carbon farming topic that you would like to hear about.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

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## Soil microbes flourish with reduced tillage

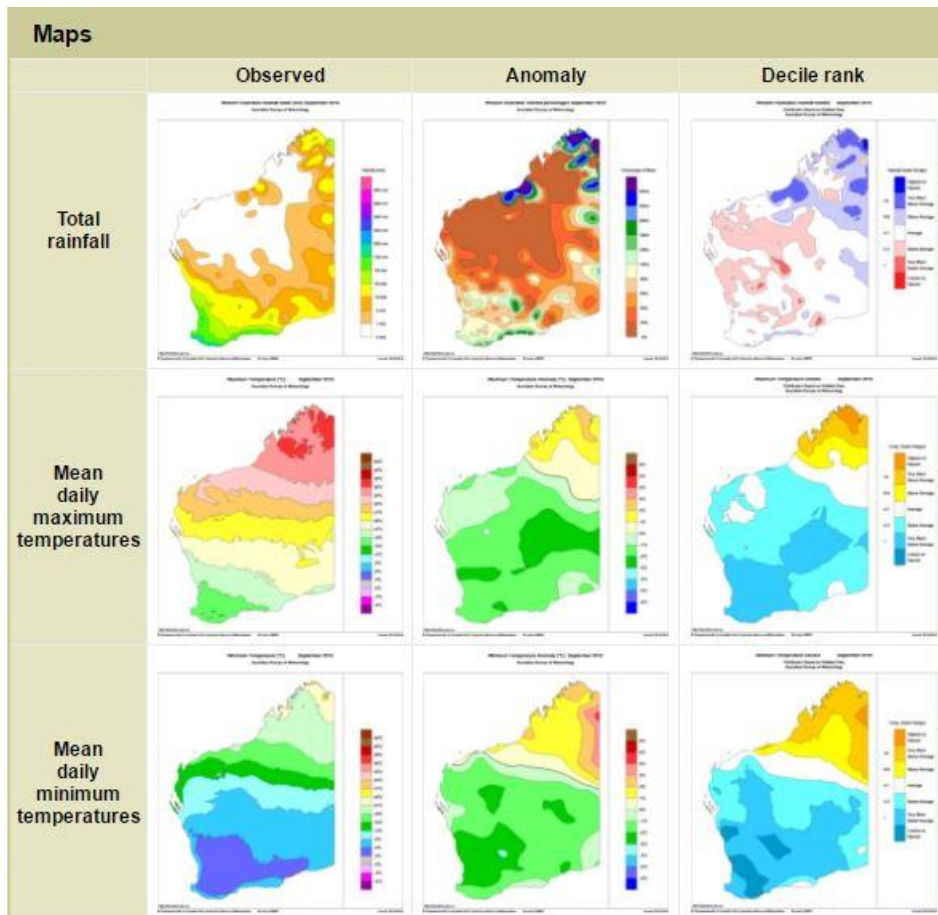
Science Daily

It has now been confirmed - soil microbes prefer no-till or conservation style tillage rather than full tilled soils. Recent research out of the University of Illinois by researchers including doctoral student Stacy Zuber, showed that microbial biomass and enzymatic activity was greater in areas under no-till farming systems.

This study compiled data from 62 sites across the world agricultural systems in an effort to take the different environmental factors, agronomic practices, and soil type from previous studies that just looked at individual farms.

To read more click [HERE](#)

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## Monthly wrap up from BoM – Sept

If you thought it was a bit cooler than normal down south this September, you were right. We have also had an almost average rainfall for September as well.

To read more click [HERE](#)

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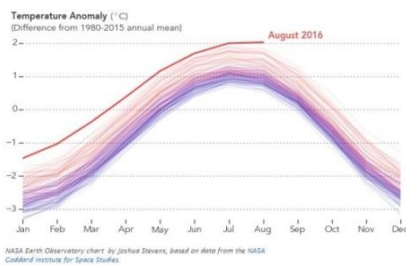
## Microbes help plants survive in severe drought

### Science Daily

Research coming out of the US has some interesting results using microbes (endophytes that live within the plant without causing disease) to help plants survive in unfavourable growing conditions. The plants with the injected microbes had increased root, leaf and stem biomass. This then helped the plant use water more efficiently, increase the nutrient use and create more growth molecules that keep the plants greener for longer in drought conditions.



To read more click [HERE](#)



## Visualising the Warmest August in 136 years NASA

Check out this cool chart showing the increase in global average temperature over the last 136 years. The chart highlights the last 11 months of record breaking increases in global temperature.

To watch the chart grow click [HERE](#)

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## Understanding the Impacts of Soil, Climate, and Farming Practices on Soil Organic Carbon

### Frontiers in Plant Science

Carbon in soils has the capacity to improve soil biology, the chemistry of the soil and physical characteristics, as well as mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

A new study undertaken by CSIRO looked at modelling the interactions between soil, climate and farming practices on soil organic matter to gain a better understanding of the complex interactions that are taking place.

To read more click [HERE](#)

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## **Agricultural production and greenhouse gas emissions from world regions - The major trends over 40 years**

### **Global Environmental Change**

Australian farmers have reduced their on-farm greenhouse gas emissions while increasing production. Developing and transitional country farmers have increased their production but their emissions have also increased.

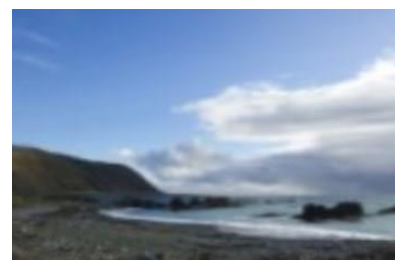
To read more click [HERE](#)

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## **Warmer seas are changing our weather**

### **Science Daily**

As the oceans are warming they have been found to be impacting on our global weather patterns. There has been an increase in the number of severe storms and hurricanes and they are now forming in traditionally cooler regions where it was thought that hurricanes wouldn't form.



To read more from Science Daily click [HERE](#)

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# Emissions Reduction Fund Update

Department of Environment and Energy

Updated Land and Sea Transport method – new draft explanatory statement now open for public consultation

The Department of the Environment and Energy is seeking comments on a new exposure draft version of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative—Land and Sea Transport) Methodology Determination 2015.

The existing Land and Sea Transport method allows businesses to earn Australian Carbon Credit Units by reducing the emissions intensity of vehicles in the land and sea transport sectors, including by replacing existing vehicles, modifying existing vehicles (fuel switching), and changing operational practices.

The exposure draft, if made, would replace the existing Land and Sea Transport method and extend its scope to include mode shift from road to rail, as rail generally has a lower emissions intensity than road per unit of freight transported. The draft method also includes minor amendments which clarify requirements in the original Land and Sea Transport method, and adds vehicle hours as a service unit for mobile equipment (such as mine haulage trucks).

Comments can be submitted until Monday 21 November 2016. Further details on the Land and Sea Transport method draft explanatory statement and how to make a submission are available on the Emissions Reduction Fund [methods web page](#).

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## WANTFA Project: Carbon Farming

Visiting our [website](#) is a great way to learn about carbon farming, the Emissions Reduction Fund and find information relevant to WA.

The resources created by this project over the last two and a half years are all available on the website. This includes webinars on the life cycle analysis of farm inputs, livestock management to reduce GHG emissions and soil carbon in long term no-tillage systems, as well as fact sheets on carbon farming activities and the methods that are relevant to WA farmers. Past newsletters and WANTFA journal articles are also kept here.

If you are a farmer you can gain benefits by participating in carbon farming activities such as:

- *Improved productivity*
- *Efficiency gains*
- *Better soil health and decreased salinity*
- *More efficient water use*

Your local environment and community will benefit as well.

To read more click [HERE](#)

You can always follow us on Twitter: @WANTFA\_Carbon and @WANTFA\_farming

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