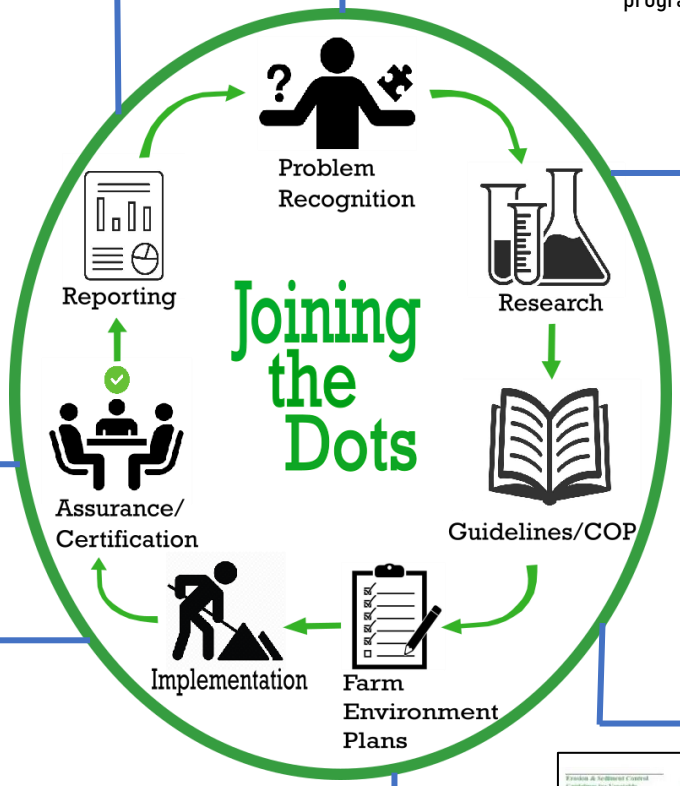
Joining the Dots on: Erosion & Sediment Control in Horticulture



1. May 1996 Pukekohe Storm

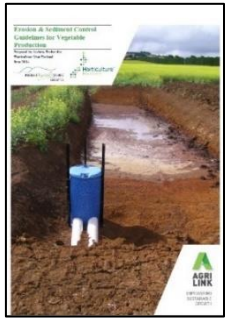
Silt, stormwater, and onions, flooded parts of Pukekohe as a result of this large storm. This become the catalyst for the formation of the Franklin Sustainability Project (FSP). Research, guidelines, an integrated stormwater system, and a large extension programme followed.

2. Franklin Sustainability Project (FSP) and Don't Muddy the Water (DMTW)

FSP was established to research methods of improving the sustainability of vegetable growing in the Franklin District, with an emphasis on erosion management. Later the DMTW project was set up to do more quantitative research on specific management practices – in particular the effectiveness of Sediment Retention Ponds (SRPs).

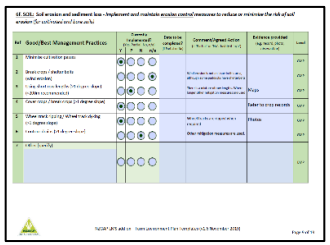
3. Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Vegetable Production

Research from the FSP was used in the creation of a unified guideline for the horticulture industry. Results from the DMTW project also supported the contents of the guidelines – which are used as reference material for the NZGAP Environment Management System (EMS).



4. NZGAP Environmental Management System (EMS)

NZGAP's EMS is an independently audited Farm Environment Plan (FEP). It assists in the compliance with regional council and national level plans. The Templates and Action Plan provides a structure and measurable timebound improvements that the grower can follow. It is an essential bridge between dissemination and implementation.



5. Construction of Sediment Retention Ponds (SRPs) on a property

6. Audits of EMS Checklist and FEP Action Plan

The completed FEP – and specifically the Action Plan – are audited. Passing the audit certifies the grower as complying with industry guidelines and council rules.

7. Aggregated industry metrics used to report industry progress and identify specific issues

Data collected from completed FEPs and audits can be used in regional and national metrics to give an overview of industry environmental progress and identify problem areas. There is the potential for individualised benchmarking reports.

Metrics can be used to stimulate problem recognition and quantify issues – creating a cycle of continuous improvement.

E.g. Proportion of growers in Pukekohe with SRPs in 2018 vs in 2022