

Media Release

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New partnership to boost agricultural education for high school students

One of the major challenges that the agriculture sector is focused on addressing is how to feed the future population in a sustainable way.

A new partnership between the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) and agribusiness Nutrien Ag Solutions is set to arm a new generation of students with the knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices to drive the industry forward.

PIEFA CEO Luciano Mesiti, said the collaboration will see the development of a suite of educational materials and resources for secondary aged students, focused on sustainable agriculture.

“We want to empower students with a greater understanding of how the modern primary industries operate, breaking down misconceptions and helping young Australians understand what sustainable agriculture really looks like,” said Mr Mesiti.

Mr Mesiti said STEM subjects have a transformative and essential role to play in sustainable agriculture.

“We all have a role to play in protecting and encouraging sustainable practices, but the food and fibre sector is not often associated with science and technology education. These new resources will break that perception and explore key sustainable agriculture concepts, including food production, environmental resilience, climate adaptation, community resilience, sustainable farming systems and growing more with less,” said Mr Mesiti.

Nutrien Ag Solutions Head of Sustainability, Rebecca Underwood, hopes the new resources will also promote the expanded career opportunities in agriculture.

“As the agriculture sector continues to transform with technological and research advancements, the demand for new skills in the workforce is also increasing. A career in agriculture extends beyond the farmgate, we need chemists, scientists, data analysts, technicians and more,” said Mrs Underwood.

“Unfortunately, there is still a significant gap in students’ understanding and perception of agricultural sustainability¹. This is despite the agriculture industry in Australia employing more than 250,000 people, stewarding around 80% of our land area and inching closer to being worth \$100 billion a year to the country.”

“Bridging the gap is a shared responsibility between industry and educators, so Nutrien Ag Solutions is really pleased to adopt this proactive approach with PIEFA to better prepare students with the knowledge to continue driving sustainable agriculture forward,” said Mrs Underwood.

¹ [A recent study by CQUniversity](#)

The set of curriculum-aligned educational resources for Australian students from years seven to twelve will be available for teachers and educators to access for free in 2025, via PIEFA'S [Primezone](#) website.

About Nutrien Ag Solutions:

Feeding the world is at the heart of agriculture's purpose and an undertaking Nutrien takes very seriously as one of the world's largest providers of crop inputs and farm services. Our team of 4,000 ag professionals are located across every corner of Australia and specialise in agronomy, rural merchandise, livestock, finance, insurance, sustainability, real estate, water and wool. It's our privilege to be invited into farm business across Australia every day to provide advice and solutions that support the productivity and sustainability of farmers. For more information, visit: www.nutrienagsolutions.com.au

About PIEFA:

The Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) is a tripartite, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, formed through the collaboration of the Australian Government, primary industries organisations and the education sector.

PIEFA endeavors to bridge the gap between classroom education and real-world food and fibre production and careers, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainability in the primary industries. PIEFA equips students and teachers with the knowledge and skills to explore food and fibre opportunities, embrace innovation and technology, and make informed decisions about consuming food and fibre products.

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