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Switching on farm innovation

'Agriculture was the standout sector of the Australian economy in the 1980s and 1990s when it came to productivity growth, with annual rates exceeding 2% per annum for much of this period. Since the end of the 1990s, however, the sector has experienced a significant slowdown and has only achieved very low or negative rates of productivity growth', said Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

'While the millennium drought and the high Australian dollar undoubtedly sapped agricultural profitability and investment in new technology during much of this period, there is still no real evidence of a recovery, which many put down to a lack of innovation in the sector.'

'A critical challenge for policy-makers and industry leaders is finding ways to reinvigorate innovation and productivity growth, in order for the sector to remain internationally competitive.'

'The Autumn 2016 edition of the Australian Farm Institute's *Farm Policy Journal* contains a series of papers discussing solutions that aim to address this challenge.'

Articles included in the Autumn 2016 Journal:

- 'Five Ways to Improve the Agricultural Innovation System in Australia', by Michael Robertson, Brian Keating, Daniel Walker, Graham Bonnett and Andrew Hall from the CSIRO
- 'Innovation in Australia's Agrifood Systems: Are Australia's Universities Ready for the Next Challenge?', by Snow Barlow (University of Melbourne), Jim Pratley (Charles Sturt University), Ross Kingwell (Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre and the University of Western Australia) and Brian Keating (CSIRO)
- 'Research Frontiers in Agrifood Systems', by Les Copeland from the University of Sydney
- 'Challenges to Effective Interaction in the New Zealand Agricultural Research and Extension System: An Innovation Systems Analysis', by James A Turner and Kelly Rijswijk from AgResearch Limited, Tracy Williams from the New Zealand Institute for Plant & Food Research Limited, Tim Barnard from Scion and Laurens Klerkx from Wageningen University (The Netherlands)

The Autumn 2016 quarter *Farm Policy Journal* is available online at the Australian Farm Institute website www.farminstitute.org.au or by phoning (02) 9690 1388.

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Media contacts: Richard Heath – 02 9690 1388 or 0427 447 872, and Mick Keogh – 0418 256 066