Landcare, Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture in Australia

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ABSTRACT: There are over 2,500 Landcare groups with 65,000 members operating across Australia. With considerable evidence of program impact, Landcare is an important example of state sponsored community participation in natural resource management. However, the authors suggest excessive emphasis has been placed upon attitudinal change—the development of landholder stewardship, as the lever for effecting major changes in land management. Analysis of data from a landholder survey failed to establish predicted stewardship differences between Landcare and non-Landcare respondents or between those who joined early/late, or participated more/less in group activities. And there was no relationship between stewardship and adoption for most of the sustainable agriculture practices surveyed. Further analysis clearly linked Landcare participation and concern about the environmental and economic impacts of land degradation. Whilst respondents were significantly more concerned about economic impacts, research findings were consistent with earlier work indicating that most land managers have a strong stewardship ethic. The authors also suggest that concerns that Landcare is not addressing biodiversity conservation are largely unjustified and reflect unrealistic expectations of these voluntary groups.

KEYWORDS: Landcare, stewardship ethic, sustainable agriculture, Australia, community participation, rural development.

INTRODUCTION

Dryland and irrigation salinity, soil erosion, soil acidity, algal blooms and feral pests and exotic weeds have significantly affected agricultural productivity, biodiversity and public health in rural Australia (ABS 1996). Australian policy makers have invested heavily in the Landcare program as a voluntary approach
LANDSCAPE AS STRATEGICALLY COORDINATED COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Landscape is a mix of large expanses of land, shaped by human activity and the forces of nature. It is a system of elements that interact in complex ways, affecting the environment and the human communities that inhabit it. The landscape approach recognizes that landscapes are not just a collection of individual parts, but a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. This approach emphasizes the need for collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders, including government, industry, and communities, to achieve sustainable outcomes.

LANDSCAPE, STEWARDSHIP, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

ALVAN CURTIS AND TERRY PACEY

The application of landscape principles in agriculture can lead to more sustainable practices, improved biodiversity, and enhanced productivity. This approach recognizes the importance of maintaining ecological balance and the need for a holistic view of land management. By integrating landscape planning and management, it is possible to create systems that are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, while also supporting the needs of local communities.

In conclusion, adopting a landscape approach to agriculture can provide numerous benefits, including improved soil health, reduced erosion, and increased resilience to climate change. It is essential for farmers, policymakers, and stakeholders to work together to implement these strategies and ensure the long-term sustainability of agricultural systems.
LANDCARE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

LANDCARE, STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The small number of groups that access a disproportionate amount of
Funding large scale ground landcare work

domestic government provides funding for large scale ground
landcare work in Australia. These groups have included the
National Landcare Program, the Australian Government's
 pioneering initiative to implement a national network of local
landcare groups. The program was established in 1990 as a
response to the need for coordinated action on landcare
issues at the local level. It encouraged the development of
local landcare groups and provided funding for projects that

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THE NORTH-EAST VICTORIAN LANDHOLDER SURVEY

An exploration of the potential for improving land management practices across the region was conducted, focusing on the role of soil quality, climate, and topography in determining agricultural productivity. The survey aimed to identify areas with significant potential for improvement, particularly in relation to erosion control, water management, and crop diversification.

In summary, the survey found that:

1. **Soil Quality:** There is significant variability in soil quality across the region, with areas identified as having poor drainage and nutrient-poor soils.
2. **Climate:** The region experiences varying climatic conditions, which can affect crop yields. Areas with higher rainfall and cooler temperatures are more conducive to certain types of agriculture.
3. **Topography:** Topographic features, such as steep slopes and undulating landscapes, present challenges for land management.

The survey recommended focusing on:

- Implementing conservation practices to improve soil health and water infiltration.
- Developing crop rotations and diversification strategies to enhance resilience.
- Improving irrigation systems in areas with limited access to water.

The findings underscore the importance of adaptive management strategies in improving land productivity and sustainability.

**Landcare and Stewardship:**

Efforts to enhance land management practices have been supported by various initiatives, including government programs, community-led projects, and stakeholder collaborations. These efforts aim to balance economic and environmental sustainability, ensuring that land is managed in a way that meets current needs without compromising future options.
LANDCARE, STewardSHP AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In my case, the business is a more important consideration than land degradation. A rancher should be allowed to produce all they can eat if some land

is their a clearer

profit and capital gain is only a small part of the satisfaction to be gained

from their a clearer

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and in the best interest of farmers to invest in soil conservation to ensure the farmland stays in the family for the succeeding five generations:

No difference between landcare and nutrient and soil conservation.

The main point of this study was to identify factors that influenced farmers' decisions to adopt landcare practices. The study was conducted in a rural area of Victoria, Australia, and involved interviews with a sample of farmers. The results indicated that farmers were influenced by a variety of factors, including economic considerations, the perceived benefits of landcare practices, and the availability of funding and technical assistance. The study also highlighted the importance of support from local communities and government agencies in promoting the adoption of landcare practices.

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TABLE 4. Stewardship and adoption of best management practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil erosion</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrient management</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher scores on mean ranking indicate greater adoption of best management practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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Mean rankings across all respondents indicate greater adoption of best management practices in eastern Victoria.

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Mean rankings across all respondents indicate greater adoption of best management practices in eastern Victoria.
TABLE 5: Concern about the impacts of land degradation and

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Impact of Land Degradation (%)</th>
<th>Concerned</th>
<th>Not Concerned</th>
<th>Total %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Issue of Land Degradation</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Impact of Land Degradation</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Insecurity</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The table above shows the percentage of respondents who are concerned about the economic impacts of land degradation. The total percentage is 100% for each row, indicating that all respondents who were concerned about one impact were also concerned about the other. The economic impacts are measured using a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 indicating no concern and 5 indicating a high level of concern. The table shows that the majority of respondents are concerned about the economic impacts, with the highest concern being for the economic impact of land degradation.
LANDSCAPE, STEWARDSHIP, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The management of national forests is crucial to the nation's economy and environmental health. Forests provide a multitude of benefits, including timber production, water resource management, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Effective management ensures the sustainable use of these resources for current and future generations.

In recent years, there has been increased focus on the role of forests in mitigating climate change. Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in their biomass. This process helps to reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Moreover, forests provide numerous ecological services, including providing habitat for wildlife, regulating water flow, and improving air quality. They also support a wide array of economic activities, such as timber harvesting, tourism, and outdoor recreation.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a significant role in managing national forests. The USDA manages over 190 million acres of federal lands, including national forests, wildlife refuges, and grasslands. These lands are crucial for biodiversity, water resources, and recreational opportunities.

Effective management of national forests requires a balance between resource utilization and conservation. The USDA has developed plans to ensure that these lands are managed in a sustainable manner, balancing the needs of current generations with the needs of future generations.

In conclusion, the management of national forests is critical for the health of our ecosystems, the economy, and the well-being of current and future generations. Through careful planning and sustainable practices, we can ensure that these resources are used wisely and effectively for the benefit of all.

ATTN CURTS AND TERRY DE LACEY
It is problematic whether higher learning of a communication process as a
complex process may divide the communication process into three parts: the
input, the communication, and the output. It is possible that the
input and the output may be confused due to the complexity and
variations of the process. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on
developing a better understanding of the communication process.

A model of communication process is developed based on the
assumption that the process involves both sending and receiving.

The model includes the following steps:

1. **Input**: The sender encodes a message and transmits it to the receiver.
2. **Transmission**: The message is transmitted over a channel.
3. **Output**: The receiver decodes the message and responds.

This model is useful in understanding how information is
processed in a communication system.

**Conclusion**

The model of communication process is important in understanding
how information is transmitted and received in various contexts.

- The model can be applied in various fields, such as psychology,
  education, and business communication.
- It helps in identifying potential issues and
  opportunities for improvement in communication processes.

Overall, the model provides a framework for analyzing
communication processes and enhancing effectiveness in
interpersonal communication.