Media Release

RIVERLINK
Linking Horticultural Centres in Sunraysia - Riverland

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Reducing yield loss of potatoes under saline sprinklers

Fresh water flushes after irrigation has been found to assist increases in potato yields and plant viability. Due to the high salinity water available for irrigation, potato crops are often subjected to salt intake, which affects yield and leaf development.

Researchers from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Sustainable Systems are currently conducting glasshouse trials to determine the effects of utilising a low saline and fresh water flushes to decrease the effects of salt.

SARDI Project Leader, Rob Stevens said that results so far have illustrated a 50 - 60 per cent potato yield improvement when applying a non-saline or fresh irrigation flush after each irrigation.

“Flushing irrigation systems have also kept the potato plants alive longer, which extended the tuber bulking period,” Mr Stevens said.

“Two per cent of the yield increase was accredited to the flush irrigation lowering soil salinity. The remaining improvement is thought to be due to the differences in the amount of salt taken up by the potato foliage.”

SARDI researchers are conducting similar trials in other vegetable crops.

For further information please contact:

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