Australian Government
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
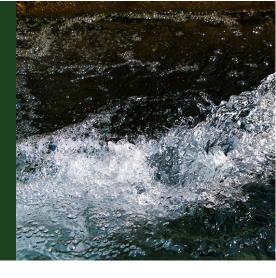
Virtual Irrigation Academy Business Models in Pakistan

Key details

Location
Pakistan

Duration
Start Jun 2022   **End** Dec 2023

Budget   AUD 250,000

Commissioned organisation
VIA Design

Partners
VIA Design

Project Leader
Simon Dyer

ACIAR Research Program Manager
Dr Neil Lazarow

Program   Water

Project code   WAC/2020/180

Overview

This project aimed to create viable and sustainable business models to supply farmers with Virtual Irrigation Academy (VIA) water monitoring tools in Pakistan.

The project enabled expansion beyond current project sites and provided the data necessary to effectively inform water management decisions at scheme, province and national levels. It also formed the basis of the feasibility study for operating a Virtual Irrigation Academy production facility in Pakistan. A a salt monitoring Chameleon Card was progressed based on findings from previous projects.

Outcomes

- Created a VIA user decision matrix and scoped out business opportunities for VIA product supply and related services.

- Explored the feasibility of producing a Chameleon sensor and Wetting Front Detector in Pakistan.

- Shared data outputs with key Pakistani agencies (PCRWR and Punjab Irrigation Department) to evaluate the efficacy of inclusion of VIA data and services into existing management systems and report on steps to support implementation.

- Developed and deployed a Chameleon Card that identifies saline soils at the site.