

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Assessing global demand for perishable commodities of Northern Australia – A case study of Central Queensland

#### BACKGROUND

Northern Australia covers 40.5 percent of Australian landmass and accounts for about 35 percent of the Australian economy and 55 percent of international exports. Central Queensland (CQ) is one of the planning regions within northern- Australia. This region has huge amount of perishable goods are currently produced that have high demand in the Asian market. An appropriate development of Air-transport hub to promote exporting perishable commodities in the Asian markets and will ensure a long run economic stability of this region.

#### ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The University researchers (Dr. Delwar Akbar, Prof. John Rolfe and Dr. Azad Rahman) are currently engaged in the research project to assess the demand for perishable agricultural commodities of northern Australia in global markets through a case study of central Queensland. This project will also focus on the necessity for air-transport hub in central Queensland to maintain efficient supply chains between central Queensland and the Asian markets. As a part of the project a stakeholder workshop will be organised which includes relevant Queensland Government departments, agricultural peak bodies, export companies and Air transport authority. The workshop duration will be two and half hours, and scheduled to be held at the end of September 2017. The workshops will offer vital information about the current and forecasted demand of perishable goods in the Asian markets. The workshop will also highlight the importance of the air-transport hub to facilitate perishable goods export and will provide some recommendation on air-transport hub development. The feedback from the participants attending the workshop will be included in the project final report.

Thank you for considering participation in the workshop.

#### WHO IS INVOLVED?

This research project is funded by CQUniversity's Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunity (CTRO). Researchers from the Centre for Tourism and Regional Opportunities at CQUniversity will be carrying out this research. (Please see contacts below).

#### TIMELINE

This is a short term project that commenced on 12 May 2017 and to be ended in 30 November 2017. Initial task to identify perishable agricultural commodities in central Queensland along with a brief background of northern Australia has been completed. The project is currently in the second phase to forecasting both supply and demand for perishable commodities and assessing transport and logistics services for exporting those commodities. Advance discussions will take place through the workshop session to occur in late September 2017.

#### WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The researchers are seeking the views and recommendation about the development of air transport hub in CQ region from the diverse stakeholders group including Queensland Government's state planning, transport and agricultural departments, peak agricultural industry representatives, commercial growers,

Air-port authorities, exporters and regional development representatives. Participation in the workshop is voluntary and the participants will have the liberty to take part in the group discussion and if suitable they can share information afterwards the workshop through mail to the researchers.

During the workshop the project's initial findings on demand for perishable goods to the Asian markets from central Queensland will be presented by the researchers. The presentation will be followed by a brainstorming session with active participation of all members of the workshop. In this session, potential Air-transport hub and logistics services for exporting perishable commodities from CQ region will be discussed. The researchers will take notes on the discussion and the participants can refuse to respond if they feel any relevant information which is of personal nature and/or commercially sensitive.

#### **WHAT WILL THE UNIVERSITIES DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?**

Researchers will keep a detailed record of the information, insights and options that emerge in the workshops and of the dynamics of stakeholder participation that occur. These will be analysed to distil recommendations about the involvement of stakeholders in developing air-transport hub in CQ region to expedite exporting perishable goods in the Asian markets.

Paper based data files will be stored securely at Central Queensland University. Reports, presentations, models and any publications related to this study will contain aggregated results and will not name individuals, companies beyond information already available in the public domain.

#### **WHAT PROTECTION AND RIGHTS DO YOU HAVE?**

Participation is completely voluntary and unremunerated. Members of the stakeholder panels can withdraw at any time. There are no risks to individuals from withdrawing from the research.

Specific details of the workshop proceedings are confidential to the researchers conducting the study. No one else will have access to the transcripts, research notes or the identity of those providing specific comments, information and ideas. Participant's identity will not be disclose in the research report, however they will be introduced with the other participants during the stakeholder workshop.

#### **CAN PARTICIPANTS FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?**

A plain English statement of results will be available as final report of the project on the CTRO web site (<https://www.cqu.edu.au/research/organisations/centre-for-tourism-and-regional-opportunities>). As anticipated outcomes of the project a refereed journal paper and a conference paper will be published to disseminate the results publicly among the stakeholders and local and state governments. If you would like to have the copies of published articles or wish to discuss the progress of the research contact the researchers (see Key Contact below).

#### **KEY CONTACTS**

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#### **ETHICAL ISSUES**

This study has been approved by the CQUniversity Human Research Ethics Committee (Approval No. H17/08-150). If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, or if you have complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research you may contact the Office of Research on (07) 49232603 or by email at [ethics@cqu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@cqu.edu.au). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.