

PLANT PRODUCTION – FOOD, FIBRE, FOLIAGE AND FORESTRY

Location: Northern Territory, Australia

Sector: Agribusiness

Investment type: Various options available including purchase, lease or partnerships with local farmers and indigenous enterprises.

Estimated total project cost: Variable dependent on location, scale and infrastructure

Project status: Proposed

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**AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERN TERRITORY
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY**



Project description:

The Northern Territory (the Territory) is well renowned for mango production. The Territory also produces melons, vegetables, grapes, tropical fruit, ornamental plants as well as field crops and forestry products.

There is still significant potential for further development of plant industries on the Territory's abundant land, where suitable water and soil resources co-exist.

There are regional differences in temperature, rainfall and humidity within the Territory which provide opportunities for different crops. The different climatic zones range from:

- the tropical Top End which has higher rainfall and is suitable for tropical crops
- the Katherine and Barkly regions which are semi-arid and suitable for a range of irrigated and rain-fed crops
- Central Australia which has low humidity and low temperatures suitable for many vegetable and fruit crops.

Many crops that grow in the Territory mature earlier than those grown in southern Australia because our production areas are closer to the equator. This gives the Territory a distinct market advantage in Australia as well as providing counter-seasonal opportunities in overseas markets.

Successful agricultural development will depend upon suitable soil and water. The Northern Territory Government provides targeted high quality land suitability and water resource information to underpin successful agricultural development. For high priority horticultural development areas, land and water study information is available online at landresources.nt.gov.au/rangelands/publications/land-soil-vegetation. For other areas which may suit specific agriculture development models, available soil and water information can be found online at nrmmaps.nt.gov.au.

Plant crop opportunities



Soybean



Quinoa



Asparagus



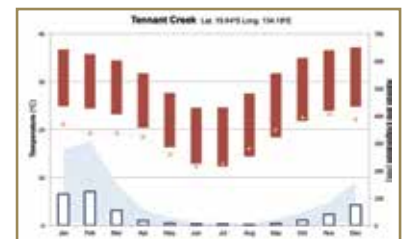
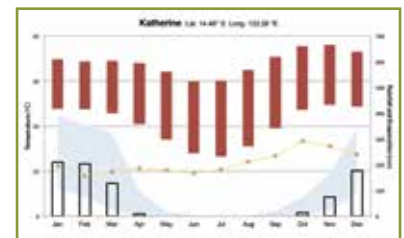
New rice varieties

- Equatorial**
Hot wet season driven by monsoons.
Hot dry season.
Cyclone risk
- Tropical**
Hot wet season with predictable rainfall.
Potential for cyclones.

- Semi-arid**
Hot year round.
Variable rainfall.

- Semi-arid**
Hot year round.
Variable rainfall.

- Arid**
Hot days year round, with cold nights in the dry season.
Seasonal rainfall with higher variability.



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Key to climate charts

- Average monthly min and max temperatures (°C)
- Average monthly rainfall (mm)
- Monthly rainfall variability for 80% of long term record (mm)
- Average monthly evaporation (mm)



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