The predicted winter rainfalls across NSW growing regions are suggested to be average to above rainfalls at their highest since 2012, which would ensure the majority of seeds were planted into seasons ambitions.

In light of the complications and intrusion of the current covid-19 pandemic on Australian life, well-attended symposiums were held online. The first, “Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture in a Pandemic”, featured a range of speakers from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and other organizations. The second, “The Future of Farming: Strategies for Resilience”, included presentations on topics such as digital farming technologies, the inland rail, and the challenges of climate change and water security.

Congratulations to former Dean of Agriculture and current Cotton RDC director Maria Ireland, who was awarded the University of Sydney’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Maria’s contributions to agriculture and rural development have been significant, including her role as Chair of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute’s Future Farming panel and her work on the Guttenberg Plan for the future of agriculture.

The Sydney Institute of Agriculture brings together research expertise from across the University to address the challenges facing agriculture. The Institute’s research priorities include climate change, water security, and biodiversity. The Institute is committed to building partnerships with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that the research it conducts has real-world applications.

In the coming years, the Institute will continue to focus on the following research areas:

- **Agricultural innovation and technology**
- **Climate change and sustainability**
- **Biodiversity and ecosystem services**
- **Water security and resilience**

The Institute’s research aims to not only address current challenges but also to prepare for emerging issues. By mobilizing knowledge from across the University, the Institute seeks to create more diverse, sustainable, and resilient agricultural systems. It is committed to ensuring that research outputs are accessible and relevant to a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, industry, and policymakers.

* On-farm Plant Health Intervention
* National and Global Perspective on Plant Health

* The COVID pandemic hasn’t yet allowed us much time to think strategically except perhaps to realise that given the investment we as a country have had to make to get us through, that the diversification of farm products incomes. It will require sophisticated farmers and land services seems like a challenging and fruitful research problem. Lining up ducks in a row – previously thought. I guess climate change is the obvious contender here. In this context we can see that work to build up to a new exciting synthesis? Can we as researchers put it together? We have our part to play to make sure all the components of this more diverse approach work together.

As the world continues to face the impacts of climate change, the Institute is committed to playing a key role in the development of sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. By fostering collaboration and innovation, the Institute seeks to contribute to the global goal of ensuring food security and improving the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities.