

Regenerative Agriculture Mentoring Program (RAMP)

Background and guiding principles

The Regenerative Agriculture Mentorship Program (RAMP) aims to support the growth and development of farmers to become regional champions of regenerative agriculture.

The RAMP vision is to create resilience through regenerative agriculture by adopting education-based, group mentoring.



Mentoring, which partners an expert mentor in regenerative agriculture with local farmers in regional hubs, is the best mechanism to achieve this vision. Farmers learn best from other farmers and knowledgeable, respected service providers (extension officers, agronomists, field service staff, training companies and practitioners); having industry leading mentors is key to a successful program.

The RAMP delivers values-based experiences from trusted regenerative agriculture experts, helping farmers understand complex systems to better manage their land while developing capacity to respond to the challenges they face in a strategic, rather than reactionary way.

The RAMP is committed to the exchange of knowledge, connection and ideas to inspire and empower regenerative agricultural collaborations.

Program aim

This program is designed to increase farmers' competence, confidence and awareness of regenerative agriculture principles and practices that are available to manage landscapes more holistically. It does this by matching farmers with mentors who are recognised for their expertise in regenerative agriculture.

This is a unique program which supports collaborative learning in a small group environment to better understand context-specific, regional farming systems, to facilitate the development of regional champions and communities-of-practice in regenerative agriculture.

As part of the program, resources are developed by Southern Cross University, the first university in the world to offer a degree in Regenerative Agriculture, with mentees having direct access to mentors, and the wealth of experience they have in the local area. This process can help validate ideas, increase exposure to different networks, accelerate business productivity, lower costs and support farm scale sustainability.

About the mentors

Mentors are accessed through our rich network of experts across Australia who have worked extensively in regenerative agriculture and who are recognised, respected and renowned for their expertise. The mentors are selected for each program by the team at SCU based on their professional achievements/ success, experience in regenerative agriculture, local context knowledge and suitability to the needs of the group.



How the RAMP works and what we can offer

1. Potential Mentee participants apply

Interested mentees apply through an online registration process.

2. Successful mentees are matched with Mentors

Six - eight participants are selected to be involved in each location-based, mentor group.

3. Mentors meet with mentees once per month

The 12-month, education-based, mentoring program is facilitated by the Regenerative Agriculture Mentor experts. The mentor meets with the mentees online for 90 minutes per month to introduce a topic for discussion and enable mentees to share their experiences over the month.

4. Integrated face-to-face workshops

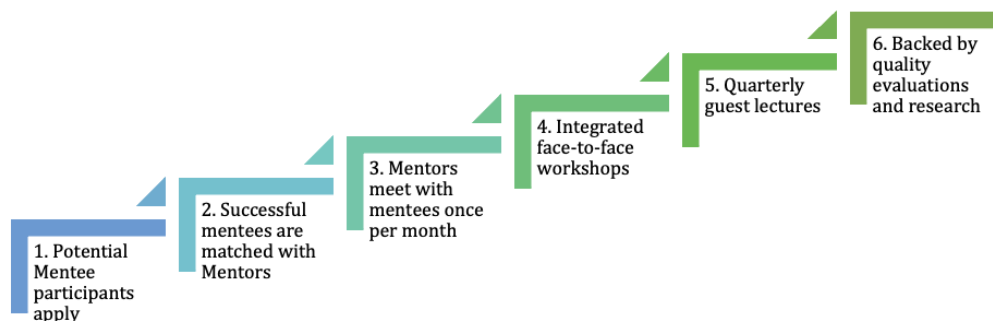
Throughout the program, mentees are invited to participate in locally based workshops.

5. Quarterly guest lectures

Every three months, the wider group of mentees and mentors come together to participate in a webinar with a special guest speaker to discuss all-things Regenerative Agriculture.

6. Incorporating quality evaluation and research

Participants are involved in a rigorous evaluation process and contribute meaningfully to ongoing research in the RAMP. Backed by Southern Cross University, the RAMP delivers quality assurance, transformational change practices and research.



Program Cost

The mentor program, developed and piloted in 2021-2022 with support from the NSW Environmental Trust, Southern Cross University, and local partners, can now be rolled out in any region across Australia where farmers are interested in regenerative agriculture.

The program costs \$2000 (plus GST) per farmer (mentee) for the 12-month program. This price includes all activities outlined in this document. The program can also be fully customised to the needs of farmer groups. For example, farmers may want to include regenerative farm visits into their program or may want to build in more one-on-one mentoring consultations. The price of the program will be adjusted accordingly.

If the cost to mentees to participate is subsidised, e.g., via external funding/ sponsorship, we recommend charging mentees a nominal amount to participate (such as \$350) to demonstrate their commitment to the program.