

QC94004

**EXPLORING THE INTERFACE
BETWEEN
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
AND
PUBLIC POLICY**

FEBRUARY 1993

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS RESEARCH UNIT



APSRU



Conference and Workshop Series QC94004

EXPLORING THE INTERFACE BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

**EDITED BY PETER COX¹, PETER CHUDLEIGH²,
BOB MCCOWN¹ AND TONY GLEESON³**

**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS RESEARCH UNIT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AGTRANS RESEARCH AND SYNAPSE CONSULTING**

¹ Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit, PO Box 102, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350

² Agtrans Research, PO Box 385, Toowong, Queensland 4066

³ Synapse Agricultural and Resource Consulting, PO Box 530, Spring Hill, Queensland 4004

ISSN 0729-067X
Agdex 002

© State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries 1994

Department of Primary Industries
GPO Box 46
Brisbane Q 4001

PO Box 102
Toowoomba Q 4350

"While there is no common recognition within an organisation of the ideal goal and the obstacles to its attainment, managers' energies are all aimed in different directions, and progress toward remedying the problem is all but impossible. Once such a common recognition is achieved, however, all concerned can apply their joint energies to removing the obstacles to their solution. Thus, by directly challenging the constraints, the strategic thinker usually finds that in reality they are far less formidable than they had appeared."

Kenichi Ohmae, *The Mind of the Strategist*, p. 87

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Acknowledgment	2
Chapter 1: The science-policy interface.....	3
Introduction	3
How policy people see scientists.....	3
How scientists see policy people.....	3
Attributes of policy formation.....	4
Problems and challenges at the science-policy interface.....	5
Action and mechanisms	5
Conclusion	6
Chapter 2: The policy process and entry points for science.....	7
Introduction	7
Science.....	7
Policy.....	8
Science-Policy.....	8
The policy agenda	9
Constraints to the application of research findings by the public policy client	12
Conclusions.....	13
Chapter 3: Providing policy-relevant information from agricultural research.....	15
Introduction	15
Case 1: Application of cropping system simulation in the management of land resources.....	15
Case 2: Cropping at the margins - an analysis of short-term yield variability and long-term fertility decline.....	18
Case 3: Prospects for cropping in the semi-arid tropics of north Queensland.....	21
Case 4: The potential for seasonal weather forecasts to reduce risks of poor returns to N fertilisation of wheat.	23
Policy implications	24
Chapter 4: APSRU and policy development	25
Introduction	25
What is policy?.....	25
Some topical policy issues	28
Discussion.....	33
Concluding remarks	34
References	35
Chapter 5: Some closing comments on the science-policy interface.....	39
Appendix 1: Program of the Workshop on the Science-Policy Interface	41
Appendix 2: List of Workshop Participants.....	45
Appendix 3: Further reading	47