

SUSTAINABLE FARMING FUND GRASS ROOTS ACTION

“The SFF is the fuel to the primary industry engine. It provides vital funding to help innovation, research and environmental projects make a sustainable primary industry a reality.”

Duane Wells, General Manager, NTL Horticulture, Northland

The Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) aims to improve the resilience of primary sector businesses and the communities surrounding them.

The Fund looks to invest in projects that deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through tackling a shared problem or developing a new opportunity.

There must be an identified “community of interest” for each project. They are usually supported by industry organisations, agribusiness, researchers and/or consultants.

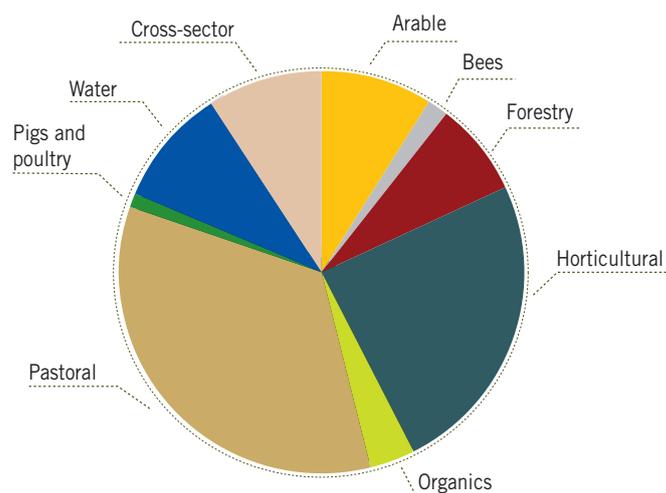
The projects are balanced across the primary sectors, regions of New Zealand and types of activities (such as research, development, extension, feasibility studies and capability building).

Most successful projects are able to leverage a high proportion of other funding or in-kind support to complement the SFF grant.

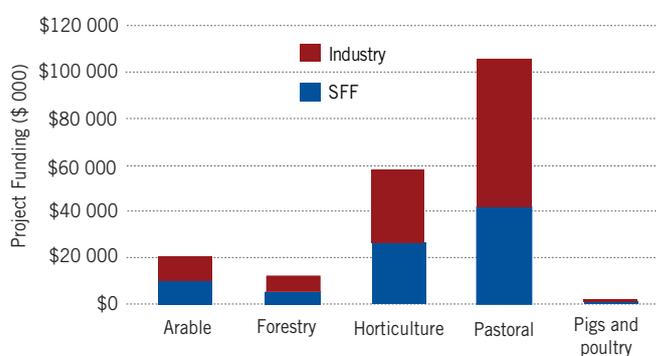
SFF was set up in 2000. Twelve years on, the SFF has invested close to \$117 000 million in 830 projects.

There have been some changes. SFF funded irrigation feasibility studies until the establishment of the Irrigation Acceleration Fund in 2011. Also, in 2012 SFF began funding aquaculture projects, reflecting the Ministry for Primary Industries’ responsibility across land and marine-based enterprises.

Proportion of SFF fund by sector 2000–2009



Ten years of collaborative funding (including cash and in-kind)



June 2012

