

MĀORI RESEARCH STRATEGY

2022 - 2025



**NEW ZEALAND
AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GAS
Research Centre**

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PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document sets out the Māori Research Strategy for the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) for the period 2022-2025. It has been developed by Toihau, the NZAGRC's Māori advisory group, with input from experts from the Māori agribusiness and research communities throughout 2021/22.

The NZAGRC has a dedicated budget of approximately \$2.23 million per annum for investment in kaupapa Māori and Māori-led research, from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025 (totalling approximately \$6.7 million over that time).

The Strategy guides (a) how Toihau and the NZAGRC will allocate that investment via a dedicated Māori research programme; and (b) how Toihau and the NZAGRC will ensure the wider NZAGRC research programmes are relevant to the Māori agribusiness sector.

CONTEXT

Prior to the arrival of Europeans to Aotearoa and the colonisation and individualisation of customary land ownership, land was communally owned by Māori. Land management was organised around hāpū and whānau groups who collectively shared the benefits and the responsibilities of care over the whenua. While Māori considered their association with the land more in terms of belonging rather than owning, there existed a system underpinned by tikanga whereby Māori allocated rights of access and use to land including the ability to enforce decisions.

In its most venerated form, land is known as Papatūānuku, the earth mother who through union with Rangi-nui, the sky father, brought forth many forms of life including humankind. Te Ao Māori through whakapapa therefore recognises the universal kinship bond shared by all living things. All living things are therefore inextricably interconnected, including whenua. The nature of this relationship gives rise to duties and responsibilities to maintain the balance in the whenua life-sustaining capacity. There is an intergenerational duty to restore and increase the mauri of the natural world and to nurture the reciprocal relationship between ngā tāngata and te whenua.

The systemic appropriation of Māori land through large-scale land sales and confiscations has fundamentally affected the social, cultural and economic success of Māori for generations. Many Māori are alienated from their whenua.

Today, approximately 1.4 million hectares, or just over 5% of Aotearoa is in Māori ownership, mostly spread across Waiariki, Tairāwhiti, Te Tai Tokerau, Waikato and Te Matau-a-Māui. Ownership structures are complex, often with many people involved. The 1.4 million hectares of Māori owned land is broken into more than 27,600 land blocks and overseen by more than

8,000 management or governance entities¹. Of the land that is in Māori freehold ownership, nearly 80% is of a less versatile class² and land parcels are mostly small and fragmented.

Use of Māori land is severely restricted by the complexity of the rules, policies, and regulations of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act, 1993. Māori land can never be sold, so realising assets is not available to landowners. There is a corresponding lack of access to finance and capital, which further limits land development.

Māori landowners and agribusinesses face barriers and inequities that Pākehā do not. There are very real capacity challenges and any mahi focused on agricultural greenhouse gas emissions associated with Māori freehold land needs to acknowledge this context. Any mahi also needs to consider greenhouse gas emissions and the impact of climate change in the context of the wellbeing of Papatūānuku and the impact on future generations.

VISION AND VALUES

Vision for the NZAGRC: A lower emissions, sustainable food system built on a deep relationship of respect and reciprocity with te Taiao and where the full diversity of Māori landowners, agribusinesses and their iwi, hapū and whanau can thrive.

Together, Toihau and the NZAGRC seek a future where science and mātauranga Māori come together to achieve this vision.

The vision is underpinned by core set of values that frame how Toihau and the NZAGRC will work together when delivering its Māori research programme:

- Recognising the mauri, the tapu and the mana of Papatūānuku
- Recognition of the kaitiaki principle and role of kaitiakitanga with respect to working with food production systems
- Commitment to honouring the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi through decision-making and resource allocation and research investment
- Recognising mātauranga Māori as an equal knowledge system through investment in both Māori agribusiness research and the wider NZAGRC research programmes
- Working with tangata whenua on their terms with a commitment to making meaningful impact in their communities

In working towards this vision, the NZAGRC seeks to be a trusted advocate, connector and research partner for Māori landowners and agribusiness to achieve their aspirations relating to agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. The NZAGRC also seeks to enhance Māori access to and participation in research that is seen as directly beneficial.

¹ Data sourced from www.maorilandonline.govt.nz, July 2022.

² Just 3% is Class 1 or 2 (suitable for all agricultural uses). 16% is Class 2 (limited for arable use, highly suited for pastoral use). 34% is Class 6 (moderately suitable for grazing, forestry. Limitations to arable use), 31% is Class 7, only suitable for forestry due to severe limitations on soil and topography, and 15% is Class 8, not suitable for agriculture or forestry (typically very steep mountain country). (Source: PwC (2013), 'Growing the Productive Base of Māori Freehold Land', a report for MPI).

MĀORI RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Design principles

In line with the vision and values identified above, the NZAGRC will deliver a Māori research programme that:

- Acknowledges the impacts facing Māori landowners and the diversity of aspirations and needs in relation to reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions
- Builds a research investment environment that responds to that diversity and partners effectively to deliver meaningful and impactful outcomes that are empowering for Māori landowners
- Strengthens and supports the capability and capacity of Māori landowners to engage in greenhouse gas-related research and extension activities
- Ensures equitable access to research funding for Māori across a wide range of regions, landscapes, Māori agribusiness entities and communities
- Targets innovative, kaupapa Māori/Māori-led solutions for landowners and agribusiness entities
- Proactively recognises and provides for Māori data sovereignty and indigenous intellectual property rights
- Has a governance and decision-making structure that is framed against partnership and underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Encourages and supports international linkages where appropriate

High-level priority work areas

This Strategy was co-developed with Māori agribusiness and science leaders and senior Government officials. During that process, initial high-level research priority areas were identified that would be necessary stepping stones towards achieving the shared vision. They are:

- Information that leads to a greater understanding of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions from Māori land
- Holistic farm systems research that identifies options for reduced agricultural greenhouse gas emissions on Māori land, and ideally that is:
 - Led or informed by Mātauranga Māori and/or kaupapa Māori knowledge systems
 - Underpinned by the principles of kaitiakitanga/tangata tiaki/Māori worldview
- Research that identifies, develops, collates and/or communicates mitigation tools, technologies and other solutions for Māori landowners to reduce their agricultural greenhouse gas emissions
- Initiatives that lead to greater understanding and participation by Māori in agricultural greenhouse gas reduction activities
- Research on soil carbon sequestration options for Māori land, that:
 - Uses taonga species and Mātauranga Māori/kaupapa Māori-based carbon recycling
 - Contributes to diversification of land use

Developing the Māori research programme

The majority of the NZAGRC funding available to the Māori research programme will be accessed via a negotiated process, rather than a contestable one.

The funding opportunity will be shared with Māori agribusiness and landowner networks, and other Māori stakeholders as identified in this strategy. This process aims to connect those entities to the NZAGRC and attract potential project ideas in line with the priorities listed above.

Prospective applicants could be iwi, hapū or whānau-based, or be from another Māori landowning or agribusiness entity or group of entities. Toihau is interested in achieving geographic spread of projects across Aotearoa, as well as a balance of representation from the different parts of the land-based primary sector. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate the extent to which they are aspiring to change in terms of farming practices, land use change etc, and have a clear definition of what success looks like for them.

Expressions of interest would be submitted to the NZAGRC, for processing through the NZAGRC's Māori Senior Advisor. The NZAGRC will provide Toihau with a list of potential EOIs to consider twice per year.

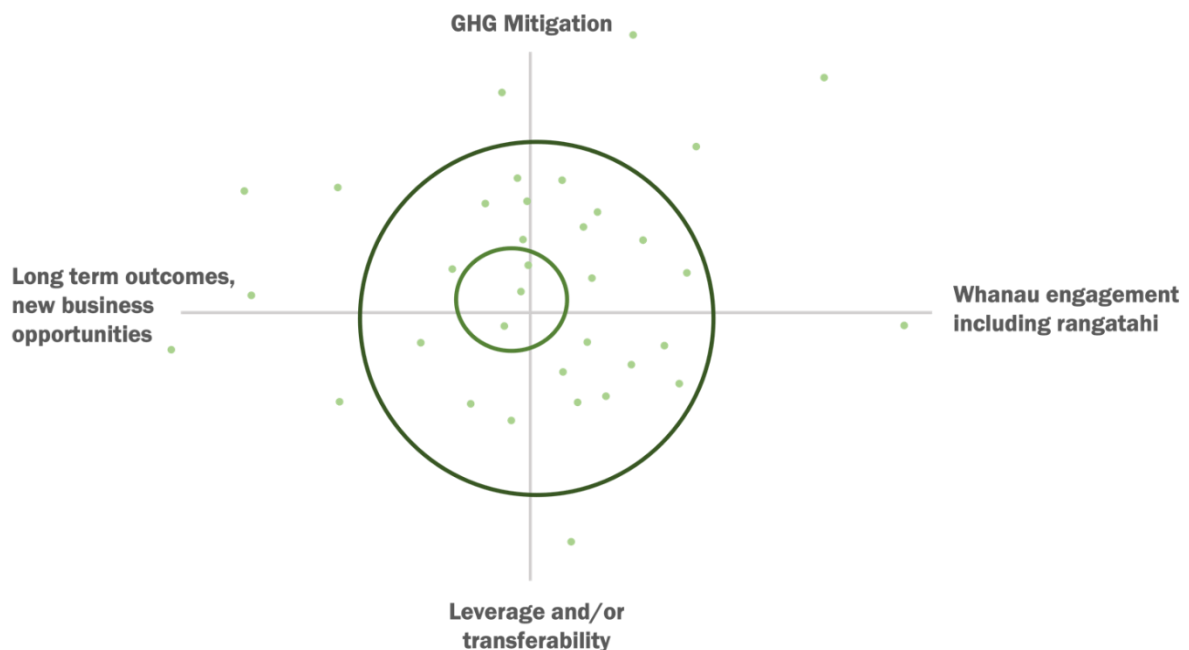
Successful EOIs will be assigned resources by the NZAGRC to assist the interested party to develop their proposal to a full application standard. See also 'Decision making' section below.

Prioritisation framework for individual projects

In developing this Strategy, Toihau identified criteria it will use in prioritising individual project investments:

- a. Relevance of the proposal to the high-level priority research areas
- b. Near- and long-term impacts in terms of the greenhouse gas reductions achieved
- c. Broader benefits to te Taiao or the landowning entity, iwi, hapū and whānau
- d. Opportunity/s the proposal creates to build capacity and capability within iwi, hapū and whānau in terms of understanding and participating in kōrero relating to agricultural greenhouse gas reductions and
 - o Whenua
 - o Tikanga that underpins decision-making
 - o Landowner aspirations
 - o Future land use options
 - o Options to reduce emissions and/or adapt to a changing climate
- e. A clear pathway for interested rangatahi to upskill in climate change, agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and related issues, in order to support future decision-making
- f. The level to which direct whanau members are involved in the research
- g. The applicant's ability to deliver
- h. Leveraging of co-funding
- i. Clear definition of what success looks like for the applicant and their community

Understanding and measuring the impact of both individual projects and the wider research programme is also of importance to Toihau. A dashboard approach will be taken, as outlined in the following diagram:



DECISION MAKING

Toihau will maintain an open, transparent, and inclusive process for prioritising and recommending Māori research investments, drawing on the design principles, priority areas and criteria identified above.

As part of this, Toihau will review its membership regularly to ensure a balance of te Ao Māori and Māori agribusiness perspectives and experience is achieved. It may also seek independent advice and input on funding proposals as needed to inform decision-making.

Toihau will work with the NZAGRC to develop a programme of activities that it will recommend directly to the NZAGRC's Governance Group for funding approval. In turn, the Governance Group will require significant expansion to ensure greater Māori representation to support this process.

The NZAGRC will ensure it has sufficient capability and capacity inhouse to support Toihau in the development of the Māori research programme. This will encompass dedicated Māori staff and other support structures such as independent advice from Māori researchers.

THE WIDER NZAGRC SCIENCE PROGRAMMES

The vision in this Strategy cannot be achieved via a Māori research programme alone. The entire NZAGRC investment portfolio needs to align with the vision and support the high-level research priorities by:

- Ensuring that Toihau are fully involved in developing the general NZAGRC Strategic direction
- Toihau being a partner in the assessment and recommendation process of all science projects to ensure that they support the Māori-led research agenda
- Proactively partnering with Māori researchers and communities
- Creating opportunities for emerging Māori leaders and exploring co-leadership models
- Partnering with other entities seeking to build Māori capability and capacity across Aotearoa’s science system
- Identifying opportunities to blend mātauranga Māori with contemporary research methods

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Toihau and the NZAGRC’s success in achieving the vision in this Strategy is dependent on developing and maintaining effective working relationships with key stakeholders, of which there are many. This includes:

Primary stakeholders	Secondary stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Māori freehold landowners and Post Settlement Governance Entities • Iwi, hapū, whānau and other Maori-based research initiatives • Federation of Māori Authorities • Iwi Leaders Forum • Te Tumu Paeroa (Office of the Māori Trustee) • MPI’s Māori Agribusiness Directorate • Te Puni Kokiri • Industry good bodies: Beef + Lamb NZ, DairyNZ, Horticulture New Zealand etc • Te Aukaha/He Waka Eke Noa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngā Pouwhiro Taimatua (MPI’s Māori Primary Sector Forum) • Māori science leaders: Wānanga Māori, Rauika Māngai, Te Ara Pūtaiao (CRI Māori Leadership Group), Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga • Relevant Government entities: MBIE, MfE, DOC, Treasury • Climate Change Commission • Regional councils • Other relevant science initiatives e.g. Global Research Alliance, Deep South, Our Land and Water

Work will be undertaken to raise awareness and connect with these entities of the NZAGRC’s Māori research programme and its wider mahi, aiming to identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration.