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Promoting Sustainable Land Use and Agroforestry through Collaboration and Innovation in South Australia's Agricultural Landscape

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Conference Theme: Restoring Forests and the
Landscape

Sub-theme: Agriculture, Private Forests & Trees
on Farms

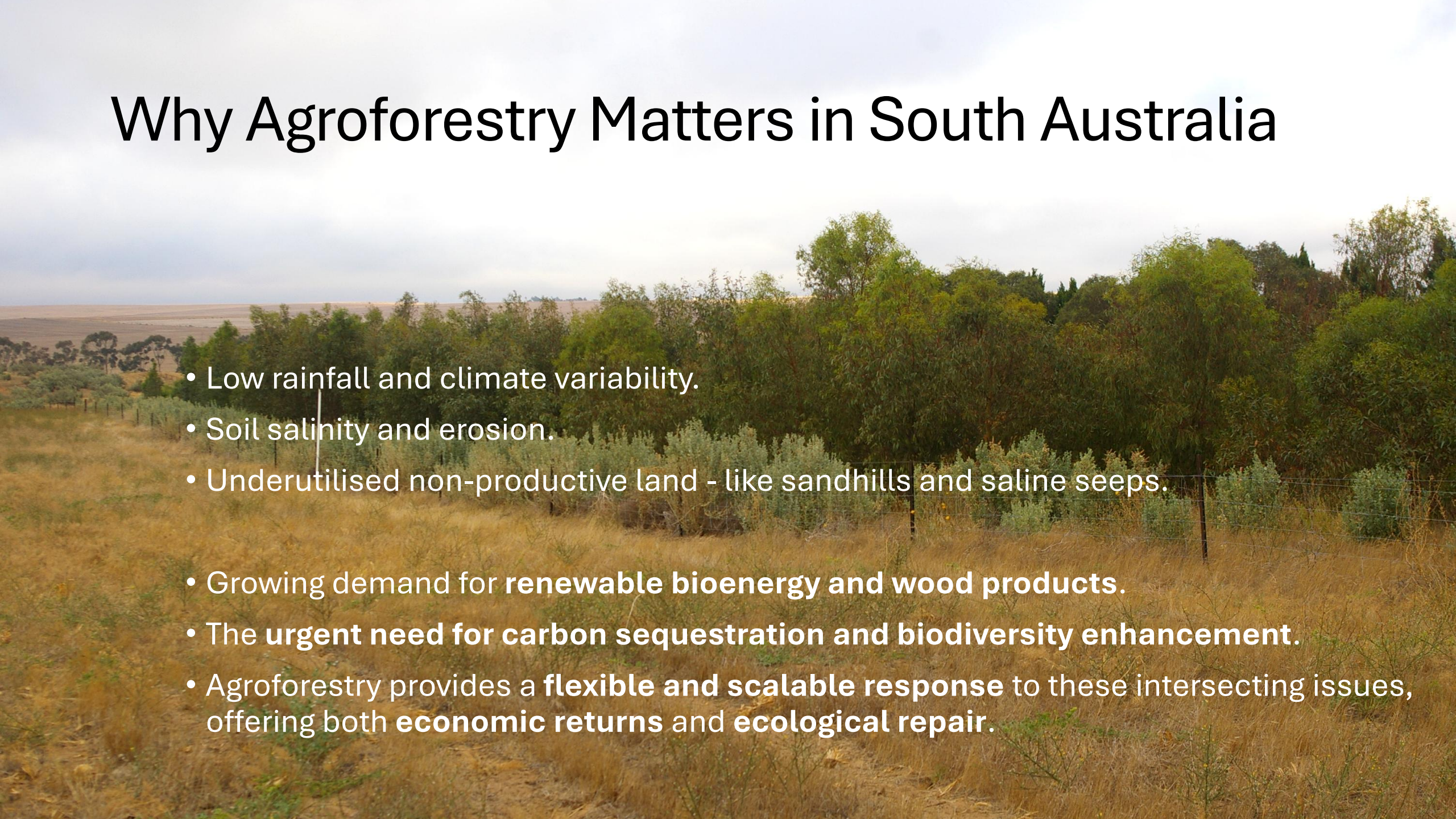


Background of FFLN

- FFLN has evolved over the past two decades.
- The group represent a diverse network of farmers, landholders, forestry practitioners, researchers, NGOs, and local governments.
- The groups mission is twofold:
 1. **Promote agroforestry knowledge and opportunity.**
 2. **Demonstrate, trial, and promote tree species suitable for South Australia's low rainfall environments.**



Why Agroforestry Matters in South Australia

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- Low rainfall and climate variability.
 - Soil salinity and erosion.
 - Underutilised non-productive land - like sandhills and saline seeps.
 - Growing demand for **renewable bioenergy and wood products**.
 - The **urgent need for carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement**.
 - Agroforestry provides a **flexible and scalable response** to these intersecting issues, offering both **economic returns** and **ecological repair**.

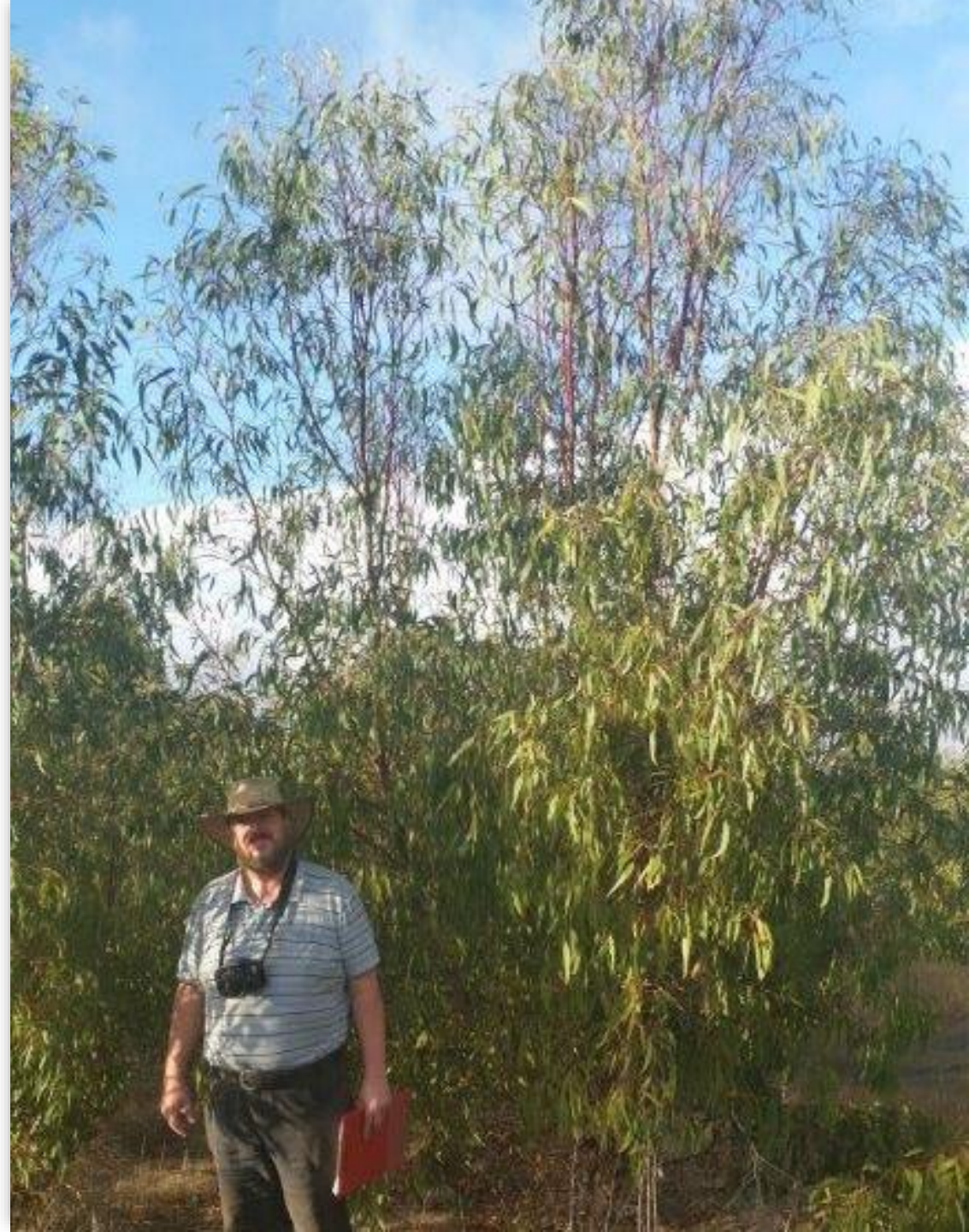
The FloraSearch Trials & Science Partnership

- Bioenergy and biofuels
 - Timber and wood fibre
 - Eucalyptus oil and fodder
 - Carbon sequestration
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- The Monarto site was especially valuable; where the group established **genetic collections and provenance trials** for the most promising species.
 - The FloraSearch project concluded in 2014, and the report “*Performance of Native Plant Species in South Australian Woody Crop Trials*” remains a critical resource for our work.



From Science to Action: FFLN Demonstration Sites

- Test **species performance** under real farm conditions.
- Explore **best-practice establishment techniques**.
- Provide farmers and policy-makers with **visually compelling, data-driven evidence** of agroforestry's benefits.
- This is not just about planting trees - It's about showing farmers that agroforestry can be:
 - **Productive** (e.g., firewood, timber, oils),
 - **Resilient**, and
 - **Complementary** to their existing operations.



Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

- **Bridging science and practice**—using the genetics and data from FloraSearch, but grounding our work in local farmer experience.
- **Open knowledge sharing**—the FFLN website, updated annually, documents learnings, planting methods, and site outcomes.
- **Building networks**—connecting farmers with each other and with researchers, policy-makers, and local governments.



Policy and Market Engagement

- Advocating for **policy support** to integrate trees into agricultural funding and climate programs.
- Building awareness of **market opportunities**—such as firewood for carbon-neutral home heating, niche timber products, and carbon credits.
- Encouraging investment in **harvesting and processing infrastructure** to make agroforestry a **viable farm enterprise**.





Outcomes and Vision for the Future

- Established multiple thriving **demonstration sites** across key agricultural zones.
- Preserved and promoted the **best genetic lines** from the FloraSearch trials.
- Engaged dozens of farmers in **practical agroforestry**.
- Developed an **ever-growing knowledge base** to inform future plantings.
- A **landscape-scale adoption** of trees in agriculture.
- A **vibrant rural economy** based on diversified income streams.
- A future where South Australia leads in **sustainable, resilient, and carbon-smart farming**.



Conclusion

- Agroforestry is an essential tool for **restoring our landscapes, diversifying our farms, and preparing for the future.**
- By connecting science with practical experience, and fostering a truly collaborative network, the Farm Forestry Landcare Network is helping South Australian farmers transform challenges into opportunities.

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