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TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government

NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Tasmanian agriculture research grows its global ranking

The University of Tasmania's growing international reputation for agriculture research was reinforced this week when it was named amongst the world's 100 best universities in agriculture.

The *QS World University Rankings by Subject* tracks the performance of more than 4,200 universities and compares research performance together with academic and employer reputation.

The global result follows the University's success in a national review of Australian universities published last December that placed the University of Tasmania as the top agricultural research institution in Australia.*

Agriculture research at the University is undertaken by the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), which is a joint venture between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

TIA Director Professor Holger Meinke said the outstanding ranking reflects the research excellence across the whole institute, including dairy, perennial horticulture, annual crops, pastures and food systems.

"We are obviously proud of our continued strong international performance in agriculture, which has seen us join the 100 top-ranked agricultural disciplines in the *QS World University Rankings* this year," Professor Meinke said.

"Our globally strong performance in agriculture reflects the hard work of our researchers and support staff who are delivering high impact and practical outcomes that are paying dividends in the real world.

"International university rankings are becoming an increasingly influential factor for students choosing a university, for research institutions selecting partners, and for industry picking collaborators.

"Our position on the latest QS rankings show that we are on a path of continuous improvement - we are locally relevant and are having a global impact.

"And we are seeing the benefits, with industry and international research organisations increasingly approaching us to form partnerships.

"Last week we officially announced a new \$7.6m partnership with Dairy Australia to grow Tasmania's dairy industry and we are currently partnering with China's Northwest A&F University to establish an Australia-China Joint Research Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Agriculture."

**The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015 National Report released last December awarded the University of Tasmania the highest possible rating of 5 (well above world standard) in the areas of agriculture, land and farm management and horticultural production - the only Australian university to receive the top rating in both of these areas.*

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