



# Anameka™: elite saltbush for livestock and landscape benefits

Oldman Saltbush is a drought and salt tolerant shrub that is native to arid areas of Australia.

Oldman Saltbush was identified for its ability to provide supplementary forage to fill annual feed gaps in livestock production and for its potential to regenerate land that is too saline, infertile or depleted for conventional crops and forages.

## The challenge

The shrub's ability to grow in dry, saline and nutrient deficient conditions leaves it less palatable and decreases its nutritional value for livestock. Researchers identified a need to improve its digestibility and relative palatability if it was to be adopted as a widespread component of profitable farming systems.

## The response

A multi-organisational R&D and industry collaboration (Chatfields Nursery, Meat & Livestock Australia, State and National agricultural departments and agencies and Cooperative Research Centres) sought to improve Oldman Saltbush's suitability as a forage supplement and began a saltbush research improvement program in the mid-2000s.

Together with the research partners, we conducted seed collection across Australia, shrub evaluation and clonal selection leading to the release of the elite variety, Anameka™. Anameka™ was chosen because of its higher energy value and because it has eight times more biomass than others in the collection. Its nutritional profile and improved relative palatability increases voluntary livestock intake, provides higher energy values and increases livestock productivity.

---

## Harnessing native shrubs for economic and environmental benefits

---

## The impact

Since 2014, over 280 producers have purchased and planted more than 2.4 million Anameka™ shrubs, equivalent to 3,700 hectares.

A recent evaluation found that the research has delivered benefits to date and has the potential to provide at least \$12 million in quantifiable first round economic impact as well as reduce farm risk exposure and improve animal health. Economic benefits are expected to accrue through on-farm profitability largely due to increases in wool quantity and decreased supplementary feed costs.

Significant environmental and social benefits are also expected through improved landscape function, improved biodiversity, and improved visual amenity of saline land.

Dr Hayley Norman  
Group Leader,  
Agriculture and Food  
+61 8 9333 6636  
hayley.norman@csiro.au

Dr Anne-Maree Dowd  
Executive Manager,  
Performance and Evaluation  
+61 7 3327 4468  
anne-maree.dowd@csiro.au

Australia's National  
Science Agency