

Survey Summary - Towards Resilient Farmers in Northland

The **first year** used focus groups and individual interviews of dairying, horticulture and beef and sheep farmers. A range of tactical and strategic activities undertaken by farmers to address adverse weather events were highlighted:

- Farmers vary in their perception of adverse weather events – in terms of whether or not an event is likely to happen, the expected damage that will occur and therefore the level of their willingness to spend money on adaptation and risk mitigation. The impact of events is very 'context specific'.
- The majority of dairy farmers interviewed considered they had adapted their farm system over time to make it more resilient.
- There are significant challenges to increasing resilience for an established orchardist.
- All farmers considered that adverse weather events were random in nature and did not follow any identifiable pattern.
- The challenge of translating information into behavior change was highlighted. Few people are changing their farming systems to take adverse climatic events into account.
- Experience plays a large role in coping with the impact of such events.
- Local knowledge and support networks are integral and are often the source of considerable knowledge and assistance.