

2022 onward: hill country resilience and sustainability

Impact (B+LNZ vision)

Profitable farmers, thriving farming communities, valued by all New Zealanders

Longer term outcomes (behaviour change)

Hill country farmers are demonstrating resilient and sustainable farming practices and stewardship of the land, animals and people

Farmers and stakeholders are **engaging** with hill country resilience and sustainability activities and events
- Behaviour change KPI 1 -

Farmers and stakeholders are **using** the suite of systems, tools and resources that support hill country resilience and sustainability
- Behaviour change KPI 2 -

Farmers and stakeholders are **applying** hill country resilience and sustainability concepts in their practice
- Behaviour change KPI 3 -

Farmers and stakeholders are **sharing, celebrating and marketing** stories of resilient and sustainable farming practice
- Behaviour change KPI 4 -

Focus of Hill Country Futures programme

Short-term outcomes (KASA change)

Farmer and stakeholder **awareness** of hill country resilience and sustainability has increased
- KASA change KPI 1 -

Farmer and stakeholder **knowledge** of hill country resilience and sustainability concepts has increased
- KASA change KPI 2 -

Farmer and stakeholder **connections** related to hill country resilience and sustainability have increased
- KASA change KPI 3 -

Farmer and stakeholder **confidence** related to hill country resilience and sustainability has increased
- KASA change KPI 4 -

Outputs

New Zealand's hill country resilience and sustainability research base and dissemination activities have grown, and provide future direction and leadership
- Output KPI 7 -

Hill country resilience evaluation system (including indicators and tools)
- Output KPI 1 -

Hill country resilience classification system
- Output KPI 2 -

Model of forage legume potential with indicators at macro and micro scales
- Output KPI 3 -

Regional legume map
- Output KPI 4 -

Feasibility assessment of native plants as fodder
- Output KPI 5 -

Feasibility assessment of FVI
- Output KPI 6 -

Workstreams

Theme one: A 'pathways' framework & Theme four: Communities to market

1. Conduct semi structured interviews with stakeholders
2. Conduct choice modelling exercises with stakeholder focus groups
3. Use interview and choice modelling findings to define the current and future strengths and challenges that face hill country farmers
4. Develop a framework of the financial and non-financial measures that will help define, measure and track hill country farming resilience
5. Identify the changes needed in hill country farming principles and practices to support resilient futures for farmers and their communities

Theme two: Classification of hill country landscapes

1. Use the APSIM model and Lucerne data as a prototype for modelling forage legume yield at the national level
2. Derive micro indicators that quantify the potential of forage species at farm scale be identified and mapped
3. Identify gaps/opportunities in resilient hill county landscapes (soil health, indigenous biodiversity, biodiversity's place in business planning and carbon budgets/stocks)
4. Identify the financial and non-financial benefits of resilient practices
5. Identify and evolve next generation classification system

Theme three: Biodiversity in forage landscapes

1. Undertake evaluation of legumes
 - a. Generate data to support Theme 2
 - b. Create algorithms for legumes
 - c. Compare pasture production
 - d. Quantify production and financial gains
2. Assess the potential for native species to provide reserve fodder to complement legumes and grasses
3. Assess the potential uses of existing tools to evaluate rye grass cultivars for hill country

Monitoring and evaluation work to support the progress and refinement of the Hill Country Futures programme

2017 – 2022: Hill Country Futures research programme