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THE NORMAL, THE NOVEL AND THE NATURAL: THE CONTRIBUTION OF EMERGING PRODUCTION SYSTEMS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF WOODLAND REMNANTS IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

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1. Whole of landscape change in land use and land management is required to manage many of the threats to woodland remnants in farming landscapes.
2. Emerging novel land-use systems have the potential to contribute to the conservation of woodland remnants on private land by moderating and reversing these threats.
3. Awareness, moral persuasion and public programs will never be sufficient to bring about change at the scale required.
4. Adoption of conservation farming practices requires that they deliver private as well as public good, are sufficiently modular to be trialled by landholders, and are sufficiently flexible to be adapted to different geographic and commercial situations.
5. The changing human face of Australia's rural landscapes means that meeting adoption criteria requires tailoring conservation technology, incentives and communication to a range of different audiences.
6. A marriage between the formal and informal cultures that acknowledges the role of science in developing components, and the role of land managers in developing and testing systems at larger scales, would accelerate this transition.

Introduction

This chapter reflects on 20 years of agricultural research and extension in the mixed farming zone of south-western Australia (see map on next page), designed to encourage the development of conservation farming. The aim was to manage rising groundwater, wind erosion, habitat loss and other side effects of agricultural development within productive farming landscapes. It is suggested that change at the scale necessary to influence these threats and protect