



Industry & Investment

ONION (Mechanical harvest) - Furrow Irrigation

Farm Enterprise Budget Series

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area 2009

1. GROSS MARGIN BUDGET:

INCOME:

1,800 bags/ha @ \$8.50 /20kg bag

Standard Budget \$/ha	Your Budget \$/ha
\$15,300	

A. TOTAL INCOME \$/ha:

\$15,300	
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VARIABLE COSTS:

See following page for detail

Planting.....	\$391
Tractor costs.....	\$333
Irrigation.....	\$470
Fertiliser.....	\$877
Pest control.....	\$384
Weed control.....	\$113
Casual labour.....	\$110
Harvesting.....	\$2,456
Marketing.....	\$4,505

\$391	
\$333	
\$470	
\$877	
\$384	
\$113	
\$110	
\$2,456	
\$4,505	

B. TOTAL VARIABLE COSTS \$/ha:

\$9,638	
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C. GROSS MARGIN (A-B) \$/ha

\$5,662	
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D. GROSS MARGIN \$/ML

\$944	
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2. SENSITIVITY TABLES

2.1 EFFECT OF YIELD AND PRICE ON GROSS MARGIN PER HECTARE

YIELD bags/ha	Price (\$/bag)				
	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5
1,300	\$759	\$2,052	\$3,346	\$4,639	\$5,933
1,550	\$1,419	\$2,962	\$4,504	\$6,046	\$7,588
1,800	\$2,080	\$3,871	\$5,662	\$7,453	\$9,244
2,050	\$2,741	\$4,781	\$6,820	\$8,860	\$10,900
2,300	\$3,402	\$5,690	\$7,979	\$10,267	\$12,556

2.2 EFFECT OF YIELD AND PRICE ON GROSS MARGIN PER MEGALITRE

YIELD bags/ha	Price (\$/bag)				
	6.5	7.5	8.5	9.5	10.5
1,300	\$126	\$342	\$558	\$773	\$989
1,550	\$237	\$494	\$751	\$1,008	\$1,265
1,800	\$347	\$645	\$944	\$1,242	\$1,541
2,050	\$457	\$797	\$1,137	\$1,477	\$1,817
2,300	\$567	\$948	\$1,330	\$1,711	\$2,093

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CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS: Operation	Machinery			Inputs		
	Hrs/ha	Cost	Total	Rate/ha	Cost	Total
		\$/hr	\$/ha		Cost	\$/ha
Disc plough	1.16	\$24.18	\$28.05			
Lister	0.78	\$27.95	\$21.80			
Bedform	1.56	\$25.05	\$39.08			
Apply pre-emergent <i>eg: Stomp</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1.25L	\$9.20	\$11.50
Apply pre-emergent <i>eg: Sprayseed</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2L	\$11.50	\$23.00
Planter	0.29	\$31.12	\$9.02			
Seed (50-60 plants/sq mtr)				3.5kg	\$111.60	\$390.60
Apply starter fertiliser <i>eg: Starterfos MAP</i>				400kg	\$1.63	\$652.00
Apply pre-emergent <i>eg: Stomp</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1.25L	\$9.20	\$11.50
Aerial spray insecticide <i>eg: Dominex</i>			\$21.00	0.5L	\$27.50	\$13.75
Fungicide <i>eg: Dithane DF</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2.2L	\$7.81	\$17.18
Chipping				5hrs	\$22.00	\$110.00
Apply sidedressing fertiliser <i>eg: Urea</i>	0.1	\$24.91	\$4.98	230kg	\$0.98	\$225.40
Fungicide <i>eg: Dithane DF</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2.2L	\$7.81	\$17.18
Fungicide <i>eg: Ridomil Plus</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2.5L	\$62.00	\$155.00
Apply post-emergent <i>eg: Fusilade</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	1L	\$67.00	\$67.00
Aerial spray insecticide <i>eg: Rogor</i>			\$21.00	0.8L	\$12.00	\$9.60
Fungicide <i>eg: Dithane DF</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2.2L	\$7.81	\$17.18
Aerial spray insecticide <i>eg: Dominex</i>			\$21.00	0.5L	\$27.50	\$13.75
Crop Monitoring						\$60.00
Fungicide <i>eg: Dithane DF</i>	0.1	\$22.92	\$2.29	2.2L	\$7.81	\$17.18
Irrigation				6ML	\$32.80	\$196.79
Pumping costs				6ML	\$45.50	\$273.00
Topper	3	\$22.92	\$68.76			
Contract harvest				36tonnes	\$31.50	\$1,134.00
Bin hire (60days)				110bins	\$0.16	\$1,056.00
Pregrade onions				36tonnes	\$4.90	\$176.40
Trailer	6	\$21.78	\$130.68			
Curing onions				36tonnes	\$2.50	\$90.00
Packaging: 20kg netted				1800bags	\$0.26	\$468.00
Packaging: Labour				1800bags	\$1.00	\$1,800.00
Freight to markets				1800bags	\$1.20	\$2,160.00
Levy				0.50%		\$76.50

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AGRONOMIC NOTES

Area:	MIA and Jerilderie are the main growing areas.
Production:	Aim for 50-60 plants per square meter on 1.5 to 1.8m beds. Sowing runs from May through to late July. Gladalan types and early hybrids should be sown from 1st to 15th May. Early and late Creamgold should be sown after 15th May. Earlier sowing could cause crop to bolt. Onions for longterm storage should be size graded with disease/damaged bulbs removed.
Pests:	Thrips are the main insect pest with downy mildew the main disease problem in the paddock. Black mould can be a storage problem.
Harvesting:	Avoid irrigating within 3 weeks of harvest. Commence harvest at 90% tops down. Harvesting usually commences in November and runs through to the end of February. The growing period depends on variety and time of sowing and ranges from 25 to 30 weeks. Costs for mechanical harvesters range from \$75,000 to \$110,000.
Curing:	Fan forced curing systems is required with mechanically harvested onions. Traditional methods may be inadequate.
Yields:	Yields range from 35 to 50 tonnes per hectare. Marketable yields may be lower than hand harvesting due to mechanical damage.
Packaging:	Onions are normally marketed in 20kg netted bags. Avoid long term storage of Gladalan types. Creamgold for export should have good leaf coverage, at least 1cm neck, uniform in colour, shape and firmness. Avoid delays in harvest which could result in sunburn. Coolstores at low humidity preferable for export onions.
Economic note:	This budget is ONLY A GUIDE and should be altered for movements in crop and input prices, changes in seasonal conditions and the farm characteristics. This budget does not include overhead costs or GST.