

Drought forces farmer rethink

By Rachelle Maddock

DROUGHTS have a way of giving farmers time to rethink.

This is often a good thing as we are given the opportunity to reassess the way we do things, and more so, why we do things in this manner.

It's a time to ask yourself or your neighbours why they plough, plant or fertilise by a certain methodology with selected inputs supposedly to maximise production.

Is it because "that's the way it's always been done", "that's the way my father did it", "that's what they taught us at ag school" or "that's what the local agronomist and/or sales rep told me to do"?

Is the advice still relevant with the experience of a changing climate?

The big question is, "are we farming our land to the best of our ability obtaining maximum productivity while improving soil fertility beyond the levels of when we

began?"; and "is the quality of our production optimal for human consumption?".

For farmers revisiting how soils naturally cycle to increase fertility and ensure quality food production, it is imperative to consider soil biology.

Anything that can be done to support macro/micro-organisms (life) within the soil will have untold benefits to short/long term production.

Of particular interest to farmers currently is the

drought-proofing ability of soils that have healthy and diverse soil foodwebs.

Soils have better water retention ability which is necessary for low rainfall periods and ultimately less water is needed at the same time as increasing production.

For more information on biological farming and natural drought-proofing contact Graham, Max or Rachelle on (02) 6020 9676 or visit www.nutrisoil.com.au.