

About the author

Dr John Moran is an Australian senior research and advisory scientist from Victoria's Department of Primary Industries, located at Kyabram in northern Victoria. He spends half his time advising farmers in southern Australia and half his time working with dairy farmers and advisers in South and East Asia. His specialist fields include dairy production, ruminant nutrition, calf and heifer rearing, forage conservation and whole farm business management.

John graduated in 1967 with a Rural Science honours degree from New England University at Armidale in NSW, followed by a Masters degree in 1969. In 1976, he obtained a Doctorate of Philosophy in beef production from University of London, Wye College in England.

During the 1980s, John lived in Indonesia for three years, working in beef cattle and buffalo research. Since 1999, he has initiated and conducted training programs on smallholder dairy production to farmers, advisers and policy makers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and East Timor. In so doing, he has built a team of Australian dairy extension specialists in forage production, silage making, nutrition and ration formulation, extension methodology, milking hygiene and reproductive management.

As a result of his Asian programs, in 2005 John wrote the book *Tropical dairy farming – Feeding management for small holder dairy farmers in the humid tropics*. As well as hard copy, the book was published on the internet, making it freely available to dairy stakeholders throughout the world. By July 2008, the book had received over 42 000 'hits' on the internet, indicating its relevance, particularly to tertiary teaching institutes and to government livestock departments.

Over the last three years, John worked with an extension team to prepare an extension and training program on Farm Business Management for the Victorian dairy industry. Based on his South and East Asian experiences, using the same basic principles of farm management, he has modified the recommended practices specifically for smallholder dairy farmers in the tropics.

John has published more than 200 research papers and advisory articles. He has also written several farmer manuals on dairy and beef cattle nutrition, veal production, calf and heifer rearing and on silage production. The first edition of *Calf rearing: A guide to rearing calves in Australia*, published in 1993, sold more than 10 000 copies. The second edition, published in 2002, is now selling widely throughout Australia. He also published a companion book on young stock management, *Heifer rearing: A guide to rearing dairy*

replacement heifers in Australia. His book, *Forage conservation: Making quality silage and hay in Australia*, published in 1996, is now a set text for undergraduate study in several Australian universities.

His initial training in a systems approach to livestock science, together with his many years working closely with dairy industries in Australia and South and East Asia stands him in great stead to write this book, a companion book to *Tropical dairy farming*. *Business management for tropical dairy farmers* is both a training manual of farm business management plus a series of observations on how successful and profitable smallholder farmers manage their day-to-day farming practices.