

# John Shaw Muir

**Sustainable Agriculture and NRM Consultant, specialising in iHemp Industry  
Supply Chain Development**

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*John believes in Innovation, through Re-Designing more Sustainable Landscapes,  
Livelihoods and Mindscapes, through Participatory Community Development, Action  
Learning Research and Continuous Improvement and Innovation, through People-  
Centered Development*

**Born:** 1958

## **Employment Summary**

**Currently 2018/24 Australia: -**

- Private Independent Hemp Agronomist Consultant, including presently consulting to AgriFutures 3-year IHVT National Hemp trials x 9 sites in all States and the NT
- **Head Agronomist and Director of “Hemp Farming Systems” Consultancy, based in Maleny, with Drs John and Waltrand Wightman.** Working with several clients nationally in WA, Sth Australia, Victoria, Qld and NSW
- **Freelance International Agricultural Consultant** covering irrigated cropping and rainfed broadacre cropping and pasture systems, especially in NRM, Landcare or Catchment Management, including industrial hemp fibre and grain development

**2015/18 Cambodia: - Private consultant in Cambodia working with Claas machinery, Cambodian Government Ministries of Ag and Irrigation, CARDI, International Organisations, Private Farms and Int. NGOs** in the area of sustainable agriculture for improved rural livelihoods development especially irrigated agriculture, including: -

- **Farm Manager and Senior Agronomist with SOMA Rice Group, Takeo, Cambodia.** 2 years Responsible for a 500-ha rice farm on the Mekong Delta on the border with Vietnam. Change management and capacity building skills were called for away from monoculture rice, to one of the permanent raised beds, with controlled traffic and more sustainable rotational farming innovative practices, and no-till direct seeding.
- **OXFAM 2 years** in Pursat/Takeo/Kompong Tom provinces projects with Australian Volunteers International AVI in Cambodia as 'regional sustainable rural livelihood and climate resilient irrigation development advisor'.

**2013/14: NRM and Sustainable Agriculture Private Independent Consultant and Industrial Hemp Industry Development Adviser, Maleny, Qld, Australia**

**2009/2012: Ecofibre Industries Operations Pty Ltd,** Maleny Head Office. The only Agricultural R & D Agronomist for the first Industrial Hemp Biomass Mill in the Southern Hemisphere in the Hunter Valley, NSW, with the production responsibility to supply over 300 ha of crops. Over 250 ha of seed and grain production annually, from Tasmania to Qld.

**2005/9 - BMRG Burnett /Mary Regional NRM Group and SEQld Catchments – Regional Catchment Management Liaison Officer and NLP National Landcare Program Co-ordinator**, SEQld based at Barung Landcare, Maleny, one of the biggest and few self-sufficient Landcare groups in Australia

**2004/2005: Private International NRM- Agricultural Consultant SE Asia**

- **Philippines in-country NRM – Agricultural Adviser/Manager, with Catholic Relief Services (CRS, Mindanao, Davao)** and for ACIAR /AUSAID Landcare Phase 2 project pioneering a USAID Sustainable Agriculture -NRM Watershed Mgt partnership program.
- **IFAD – Indonesian**, Central Sulawesi Project Conception team member as the Sustainable Agriculture and NRM Adviser specialist, for \$US 50 mill. Approved project.

**1999/2004: Landcare/Farmcare Development Co-ordinator - Australia (60%) and the Philippines (40%), funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)** for the *Adoption of Sustainable Livelihoods and Conservation Farming Techniques in Steep Uplands - using a Landcare Approach*, in the Philippines & SE Qld

- Member of the ACIAR Concept Development Team and became the Project Landcare Facilitator/Co-ordinator/Trainer of the International Landcare project: Employed on behalf of Barung Landcare Association, Maleny. Partners were the Queensland DPI, the University of Queensland and, in the Philippines, the Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture SEAMEO/ SEARCA/ SANRAM) at the University of the Philippines, Los Banos (UPLB) and the World Agroforestry Centre ICFRAF.
- The Australian component was entitled “*Farmcare- Landcare in Horticulture Qld*” with *GROWCOM* for developing the Horticultural industry Best Mgt. Codes of Practice for Queensland tropical crops, e.g., avocado, strawberry, macadamia, and pineapples. NB- Included is the introduction of on-farm Hort. Industry Water Watch monitoring.

**1995-9: Maleny Landcare Project** Team Leader/Facilitator/Manager/Co-ordinator with Barung Landcare & as Catchment Care Co-ordinator, Lake Baron. Becoming one of the biggest, self-funded sustainable Landcare groups in Australia with nurseries & regen teams.

**1992-94: Cambodia with AUSAID - UNTAC- Rural Development Project Leader, “Integrated Community Irrigation Development Project” Takeo, Cambodia.** On secondment from NSW Agriculture to Australian Catholic Relief (ACR), jointly funded by AUSAID (AIDAB Project No. 88-2029). Developed and Rehabilitation of 800 ha at Samput & Kabal Po irrigation schemes in Treang, Takeo on the Mekong Delta with associated Irrigation and Agronomy training and support via NSW AG, IRRI, MAFF, CARDI and FAO

**1981-92: District Extension Agronomist, NSW Agriculture, Hay** (with seven years of Officer-in-Charge responsibility of five district office staff). Major projects include:

- Sustainable broadacre rainfed/ marginal dryland farming systems team member
- Sustainable Rangeland Grazing Management inc. Oldman saltbush establishment.
- Property Mgt. Planning (remote sensing, linear programming & irrigation development)
- Intensification of irrigated farming and minimum tillage using permanent raised beds
- Sustainable Floodplain/Lakebed pasture and cropping systems development (Organic)

## **1980-81: Manager, Hawkesbury Agricultural College's 'River Farm', Richmond Sydney**

### **Education**

2004 – Master of Systems Agriculture and Rural Community Development- incomplete  
1997 - Master of Applied Science (NRM and Social Ecology) University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury, Richmond,  
1977- Diploma Applied Science (Agriculture) Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Sydney,

### **Professional Association Memberships**

AAS	Australian Agronomy Society (8 yrs).
AHC	Aust Hemp Council - Agronomy subcommittee exect.- 7 yrs
AIHA	Aust iHemp Alliance – 10 yrs
APEN	Australian Pacific Extension Network (25 yrs)
AIAS	Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (12 yrs),
ASSS	Australian Soil Science Society (Riverina & Qld) (15 yrs)
AWA	Australian Water Assn (2 yrs)
IAA	Irrigation Association of Australia (11 yrs).
IIMI	International Irrigation Management Institute - (Farmer Initiated Water Management, Irrigation Research & Extension Committee, annual newsletter editor and conference organiser
ISCO	International Soil Conservation Organisation (3 yrs)
NASAA	National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (6 yrs)
PEN	Philippines Extension Network (3 yrs)
PIA	Permaculture International Australia (5 years)
GL	Global Landcare group 15 yrs
QWALC	Qld Water and Land Carers (5yrs)
TGSA	Tropical Grassland Society of Australia, (3 years)
ASEAA	Aust Society for Engineering in Agriculture, Australia (3 years).
SAWCAA	Soil and Water Conservation Association of Australia (5 yrs).

### **Publications and Presentations (selection only)**

- National Australian Biannual Hemp conferences for the past 6 years in Perth March '20 & Launceston '22 and the Hunter Valley April 24 – Presented papers at all 3. Including  
*Hemp as a potential winter dryland sown crop and Agronomy of Hemp Growing*
- AgriFutures Hemp BMP Growing guide 2023 co-author 65 pp see [www.AgriFutures](http://www.AgriFutures)
- 2-day Regenerative Ag Hemp growing Workshop, come field day at Casino on organic hemp farm re Biochar and Compost production and hemp breeding, food processing and methane reduction in cattle – see [www.Hempproof](http://www.Hempproof) podcast
- National Hemp Conference by CSIRO and AgriFutures, Geelong – “*Lessons Learnt in Hemp production in Australia over last several years*” - March 2018
- International Landcare Conference – Nagoya, Japan. “*Landcare Development in the Philippines and Qld with ACIAR project*”- Oct 2017
- Australian First Industrial Hemp Training Workshop and Field Day run by myself and Hemp Farming Systems at Tocal Ag College/ NSW AG Hunter Valley 2017

- UN/MAFF Conferences on Sustainable Land Mgt and NRM, in Battambang and Siem Reap, Cambodia on “*Redeveloping Cambodia’s Livelihoods, Landscapes and Mindscapes*” - 2015
- Mine Rehabilitation Annual Conference – Singleton Hunter Valley – “*Industrial Hemp – new crop and mulch/hydromulch products for Mine Rehabilitation*” Sept 2013, c/o Newcastle Uni. Hunter Valley Australia
- “*Sustainable BMP Industrial Hemp Production in Australia- a new crop for Fibre and Oilseed*” – Qld State Landcare Conference, Brisbane Convention Centre, Feb. 2012.
- “Industrial Hemp – new crop for Victoria” – Industrial Hemp Victoria Assn, Conference, Melb, 2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, 2007, Barung Landcare’s “*Blackall Range Sustainable Landholders Guide*” co-author of 60-page booklet on sustainable land, water and biodiversity management in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.
- IFAD – Int. Fund for Int. Development - March 2005 – Central Sulawesi Indonesia project Formulation team member and report on “Sustainable Agriculture, NRM Landcare and Supply Chain Development. 250 pages consultancy for \$US50 million approved for funding via Brisbane FDC- Federation for Development Co-operation
- Co-Author - Farmcare – Landcare in Horticulture – Qld Codes of Practice, 2004 QFVG -GROWCOM
- Co-author “*Landcare in the Philippines - People and Places*” ACIAR Technical publication 2004 (200 pages colour) <http://www.aciar.gov.au/web.nsf/doc/ACIA-66CW4P>
- Muir J and Catacutan D “*Landcare in Australia and the Philippines*” 4-day Uganda/Kenya workshop, Kampala, East Africa for World Agro-Forestry, Dec 2003
- Vock N and Muir J et al, (2003) “*Farmcare and EMS - Two new approaches to Horticultural BMP Implementation*” – APEN National Conference Tasmania.
- Muir J, Rinehart C, Vock N, Ruiz E, Boy G & Laotoca A (2003) “*Reflections on Landcare in the Philippines – using the Debono 6 hats approach*” – National Landcare Conference, Darwin.
- Muir J (2002) “*Continuous Improvement and Innovation- R and D and Me in our ACIAR Landcare project*” – presented at a 3-day ACIAR Research and Development Innovation Workshop, Brisbane
- Muir J and Rinehart C et al (2002) Crawford funded Masters Class for 3 days “*Landcare facilitators*- Brisbane
- Muir J (2001) “*Enhancing Farmer Adoption of Conservation farming techniques, using the Farmcare and Landcare Approaches in SE Qld horticulture and the Philippines*” in Successes in NRM Stakeholder Collaboration Workshop, 8<sup>th</sup> June, Griffith University, Brisbane
- Muir J, Rinehart C and Dillon J (2000) “*Catchment Management in Australia and the Philippines*’ - Presented at the National River Symposium, Brisbane Qld 2000
- Muir J and Rinehart C (2000) “*Landcare Facilitators Train-the-Trainer*” Developed this workshop manual for a 5-day facilitated presentation at UPLB, SEARCA, the Philippines for 17 Filipino Landcare project counterparts (220 pages)
- Muir J (1998) “*Best Management Practices for a Landcare Group- the value of diversity in membership*”. Presented at the 4th National Landcare Conference, Adelaide 1998.

- Muir J, Beecher G, Thompson J and MacCaffery D (1994 & 1997) "*Cropping on Raised Beds in Southern NSW*". NSW Agriculture Agfact P1.2.1. 2nd edition
- Date W, Sykes J, Birchall C and Muir J (1994) "*Lakebed and Floodplain Cropping*" NSW Agriculture. Agfact P1.1.7. (1994)
- Muir J and Heang S (1994) "*A discussion paper on the Irrigation Sector Situation of the Kingdom of Cambodia*" Department of Hydrology, Phnom Penh. International Irrigation Management Institute Conference, China, September 1994.
- Muir et al (1994)"*Western Division Remote Sensing Resource Monitoring Project, 1989-93*" Presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Austral-Asian Remote Sensing Conference, October, Perth, Australia