

## Case Study

Mavi Singh  
Orange Farmer  
Leeton, NSW

**FROM INDIA TO NEW ZEALAND AND THEN AUSTRALIA, AGRICULTURE AND FARMING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF MAVI SINGH'S LIFE. IN 2003, HE BOUGHT HIS PROPERTY, MAVI FARMS, IN LEETON AND HAS SINCE BUILT A SUCCESSFUL CITRUS OPERATION.**

### Moving to the Riverina

Working the farm has always been a natural part of Mavi's life. In India he farmed wheat, rice, sugar cane and other crops before moving to Auckland, New Zealand in 1987. When looking for his next move he searched New Zealand and Australia for potential places before settling on Leeton in 2000.

Having relocated to the Riverina, one of the largest production areas in NSW for citrus, it made sense that Mavi began growing oranges. Producing 1,000 tonnes across his 75 acres, half Mavi's oranges are packed and the other half used for juicing.

### Changing irrigation methods

Throughout his farming experience, Mavi has seen and used many irrigation strategies. In India he relied on bores, drawing water from underground sources up 300 metres to then be applied to his crops.

When beginning at his current property there were flood irrigation systems in place which meant he relied on the use of gravity to control the flow of water.

Around 17 years ago Murrumbidgee Irrigation installed drip irrigation allowing a slow, controlled system of delivering water to his trees, keeping moisture at optimal levels.

**“Murrumbidgee Irrigation helped install the drip irrigation we use now. They also assisted in preparation for the works and creating plans.”**

Drip irrigation is particularly beneficial in dry climates, like the Riverina experiences during drought events. It reduces wastage from evaporation and runoff providing both economic and environmental benefits.

In addition, because it drips directly at the root zone it reduces contact with the plant's leaves, stems and fruit minimising disease.

### Updating channel systems

Mavi's property was included in major works completed by Murrumbidgee Irrigation which involved de-silting the channels that service his property.



“Murrumbidgee Irrigation have recently finished cleaning and improving our channels. It makes it easier for us and also looks much better!”

Installation of slow time monitoring (STM) to Mavi's outlet by Murrumbidgee Irrigation allows for more accurate and up-to-date meter readings. The updates are sent to the control room automatically instead of waiting for manual meter readings.

This work in conjunction with automatic regulators and offtakes, ensures that channels continue to run at optimal heights so service and delivery can be maintained.

## Working with Murrumbidgee Irrigation

Mavi is most proud of how he has adapted to Australian farming practices. He believes that making the most of learning opportunities throughout the years has made him a better farmer.

Some of these learning experiences and knowledge sharing have come through the Murrumbidgee Irrigation team who were able to provide ideas and insights on irrigation techniques and have the systems in place to deliver it.

“Murrumbidgee Irrigation are very good to work with. They're easy to get in contact with when we need, and their team are very friendly.”



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