

Sample itinerary – Rice Farming in the Riverina

9.00 am We meet at Leeton Visitors' Centre for a short video on agriculture in the Riverina and tastings of sample rice and other products.

Yanco Agricultural Research Station is our next visit. The Research Station has been instrumental in developing commercial varieties of rice suited to Australian conditions. We will meet researchers and others involved in the continuing work and will view an historic monument to Isaburo Takasuka, a former Japanese member of parliament who came to Australia to establish himself as a merchant but who also experimented with growing rice.

Next stop is for an illustrated presentation on the industry by an expert actively and professionally engaged in it.

We then visit a nearby rice farm. The farm will be chosen depending upon weather conditions, availability of the farmer, size of tour group and whether the group would prefer to see conventional or organic production modes.

After lunch we make a short drive-by tour of rice industry infrastructure (mill, drying sheds, etc).

The tour ends with a visit to Gogeldrie Weir, an important part of the water management infrastructure that makes rice and other irrigated agriculture possible in this otherwise semi-arid region.

3.30 pm Tour ends back at Leeton Visitors' Centre