

Network Meeting Summary

The Esperance Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met at the DAFWA office in Esperance on 12 February 2015.

The meeting was held after the first part of the Soils Masterclass event which was a direct initiative of this RCSN group. The meeting was well attended and provided a valuable forum for the exchange of information regarding GRDC activities and RCSN projects.

The meeting included a series of guest speakers including:

- **Bill Ryan** – GRDC Western Panel member – who presented on the GRDC investment cycle and upcoming activities, along with insight into new roles that would form part of the support system for RCSN in the future.
- **Martin Blumenthal** - GRDC – who presented on getting more profit from crop nutrition.
- **Frank D'Emden** – Precision Agronomics – who presented an update on the probes and profit project.

All of the guest presenters were well received and provided a basis for valuable discussion, reflection and information sharing.

Other activities undertaken on the day included:

- Wrap up of 2014 harvest experiences and issues.
- Review of the feedback received via the online RCSN survey.
- Review of the progress of short term RCSN projects relevant to this port zone facilitated by Julianne Hill.
- Group analysis of current local priorities affecting productivity and profitability to guide the next round of short term projects and feed into the GRDC external investment plan. Priorities areas discussed included:
 - Profitable legume rotation
 - Barley head loss
 - Variable rate technology
 - Moisture management
 - Profitable break crops (low rainfall)
 - Subsoil constraints (management of)
 - Acidic soils
 - Barley desiccation.

Additionally, Roger States, the new Western Regional General Manager, provide an update and overview on the next iteration of the Regional Cropping Solutions Network as the current contract is due to end on 30 June 2015.

Next Meeting and Further Details

The next meeting of the network will be held in July/August 2015.

For further information about the Esperance RCSN, please contact RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or via 0447 261 607.