

Network Meeting Summary

The Kwinana West Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met at the GRDC Perth office on 20 February 2015. The meeting included a series of guest speakers including:

- **Chris Wilkins** – GRDC Western Panel member – who presented on the GRDC investment cycle, themes that he is involved in as a WP member and upcoming activities.
- **Peter Morrison** – GRDC – who presented on matching inputs to soil types, including themes and projects that relate to this area from a GRDC perspective.
- **Ben Biddulph** – DAFWA – who presented an update on varietal tolerance for frost.
- **Ben White** – Kondinin Group – who presented an update on the understanding map layers project.
- **Jerome Critch** – Planfarm – who presented on managing increased variability and volatility from a grain marketing perspective.

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.
- Brainstorm of locally important weeds (to feed into a project on this).
- 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:
 - Farm machinery purchasing decision making
 - Nematodes and soil borne diseases
 - Decreasing yield in Canola
 - Profitable rotations, including oats
 - Subsoil constraints, particularly potassium
 - Late season weeds in crops
 - Business structures
 - Frost.

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 Kwinana West RCSN, please contact RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or via 0447 261 607.