

Network Meeting Summary

The Albany Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met at the Ferngrove Winery, Frankland River, on 29 July 2015. This meeting followed on from the open meetings held the night prior which enabled members of the general public of the port zone to come together to discuss, identify and workshop the priority areas affecting their profitability. A summary of the open meeting can be found at: www.rcsn.net.au/open-meetings.html. This RCSN meeting included a series of guest speakers including: Susan Hall (Western Panel Member) who provided an update on recent GRDC activities; and Roger States (GRDC Regional Manager West) who provided an update on the next iteration of the RCSN. In attendance also were Dr Bev Gogel and Dr Simon Diffey from Statistics for the Australian Grains Industry (SAGI) as guests. Additionally, the following projects funded by the Albany RCSN were also updated:

- **Richard Quinlan** (Planfarm) who provided an update on an early seeding trial (combined work with DAFWA) – this update was provided by Julianne Hill.
- **Paul Leonie** (Kent Land Care) who provided an update on a project focussing on improving soil health and crop uptake of fertiliser through the use of prilled lime products.

All of the guest presenters were well received and provided a basis for valuable discussion, reflection and information sharing. **Other activities undertaken at the meeting included:**

- Wrap up of 2015 seeding experiences and issues.
- Review of the priorities identified at the open meeting and identification of any gaps.
- Review of the progress of short term RCSN projects relevant to this port zone.
- Building on the open meeting priorities and further analysis of the issues affecting profitability. The table below provides an overview of the issues identified at the open meeting and the resulting additional priority workup at the RCSN closed meeting.

Top 10 Issues (Open Mtg)	Issues Taken Forward at Closed Meeting Workup	Closed Meeting Priority Area Workup Comments
Herbicide/Pesticide Resistance (18%)	Compaction (23%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Non Wetting (16%)	Snails and Slugs (19%)	Existing national initiative and potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Snails and Slugs (14%)	Non Wetting (18%)	Existing national initiative and potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Sclerotinia (10%)	Canola Yield Limitations including Sclerotinia (12%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Rotations (9%)	N and P Management (8%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
N and P Management (9%)	Soil acidity (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Soil acidity (8%)	Herbicide/Pesticide Resistance (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Canola Yield Limitations (8%)	Cereal Disease (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Cereal Disease (8%)	Water Logging (3%)	No further workup done at this meeting.
Water Logging (2%)	Frost (3%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.

Members noted some changes between the priorities of the open meeting and the closed meeting; however, in some instances there are national initiatives already in place and the network members were looking at gaps that could be addressed at the port zone level. All of the priority issues will continue to have visibility via the RCSN to the Western Panel.

For further details on the RCSN, please visit www.rcsn.net.au or contact the RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or via 0447 261 607.