

GRDCs Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) meeting for the Albany Port Zone was held on Tuesday 13 February (1-5pm) and Wednesday 14 February (8-12) 2018 at Curtin University (Building 104, Room 101). This was the first RCSN member meeting for 2018.

Meeting attendees included: Jeremy Lemon, Trent Parsons, Daniel McDougall, Mark Sullivan, Kirsty Smith, Mark Lawrence, Scott Smith, Kent Stone, Andy Duncan, Jo Wheeler, Georgia Megirian, Julianne Hill (Coordinator), Cindy Power and Helen Ablett (Project Support). Apologies were received from Mark Pearce, Ben Ball, Ben Creek and Mae Connelly.

Albany RCSN members toured the CCDM facilities including the laboratories, heard from key researchers working in RCSN identified high priority areas, and conducted their RCSN meeting (held on morning of 14 February 2018). RCSN members stayed at the Peninsula Apartments and had a group dinner at the Windsor Hotel on 13 February 2018. The meeting included the following presentations:

- **John Noonan**, CCDM Director: Welcome
- **Kat Zulak**: Fungicide Resistance work
- **Araz**: Co-infection work
- **Matt Denton-Giles**: Sclerotinia work
- **Sarah Collins (DPIRD) and Lingling Gao (CSIRO)**: seminar and discussion on their nematode research
- **Dr Amir Abadi**: Improved Farming Systems presentation.

In addition to the above presentations, Andy Duncan (Western Panel) and Jo Wheeler (GRDC Grower Services Manager) also provided a GRDC and RCSN general business update. The RCSN members then considered and voted on all ideas that had been gathered from the five growers they liaise with prior to each meeting; as well as any other topical and high priority issues that they had considered since last meeting. The top 10 ranked issues are listed in the table below.

**TABLE 1: Top 10 areas that Albany port zone RCSN members ranked highly as impacting heavily on growers profitability (those in bold were further developed with MAKATs undertaken).**

ID #	Idea	Area	Further expansion by RCSN members on top issues
ALB1	Machinery	Agribusiness	No further expansion but highly impacts on profits in most years
<b>ALB2</b>	<b>Fungicide and Diseases</b>	<b>Crop protection</b>	<b><i>A coordinated service of disease monitoring and alerts of imminent developments; Real time alerts or notification system if, when, where and what resistance is detected of local significance.</i></b>
<b>ALB3</b>	<b>Fungicide and Diseases</b>	<b>Crop protection</b>	<b><i>Accurate agronomist resistance ratings when a new variety is released after full testing.</i></b>
<b>ALB4</b>	<b>Fungicide and Diseases</b>	<b>Crop protection</b>	<b><i>Wider distribution of sample kits/machines for resistance testing and multiple infections; data made available on samples tested.</i></b>
<b>ALB5</b>	<b>Fungicide and Diseases</b>	<b>Crop protection</b>	<b><i>An app/tool to make sound fungicide strategies to get known economic response to determine minimum dose rate of a fungicide on particular disease based on weather events and disease threshold</i></b>
<b>ALB6</b>	<b>Ripping and Soil Amelioration</b>	<b>Soils</b>	<b><i>Full cost analysis on process, machinery and future costs to maintain initial treatment so not to reverse the process. Will need case study's and economic breakdown on each soil management cost and predicted return in different seasons to the soil ripping/amelioration process.</i></b>
<b>ALB7</b>	<b>Ripping and Soil Amelioration</b>	<b>Soils</b>	<b><i>Data showing crop affects and yield +/- deep ripping in waterlogging situations</i></b>

ID #	Idea	Area	Further expansion by RCSN members on top issues
ALB8	Ripping and Soil Amelioration	Soils	Expanding and extending current Ripper Gauge trials (that are soil type specific trials as opposed to just 'location') as well as grower workshops to assist growers in setting up on farm trials to evaluate deep ripping.
ALB9	Ripping and Soil Amelioration	Soils	Review current soil maps – can they provide enough information to make these decisions? Need to know which type of mapping (EM, yield, biomass etc) is going to be best or whether one will be OK even if not paying for the service. Level of measurement, resolution 1ha increments?
ALB10	Frost	Agronomy	No further expansion but highly impacts on profits
ALB11	Non-wetting soils	Soils	
ALB12	Nitrogen	Nutrition	Nitrogen strategy for longer term waterlogging conditions. Managing cereal protein early enough to make a difference to outcome. Weighing up optimum while meeting buyer preferences.
ALB13	Sclerotinia	Crop protection	Current canola variety resistance to sclerotinia. Sclerotinia decision making tools and information.
ALB14	RLN	Crop protection	Need quicker screening of new varieties to RLN.
ALB15	Profitable Legumes	Farming system	Profitable/reliable legume for clays as these soils are not really suited to traditional pasture legumes. Trying vetch this year but very hit and miss in our area. Limited acid tolerant legumes available. A profitable grain legume for mixed soil types.
ALB16	Early seeding options	Agronomy	Continue work on this for the Albany port zone

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked; however all issues will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and have been forwarded to the GRDC Western Panel for continued visibility as port zone related issues that may feed into existing or future initiatives.

**What Next?** All issues considered to be high ranking by the RCSN members will now be further defined; due diligence conducted on each area with regard to research conducted in the past, currently or in development (to avoid replication and to make best use of resources); and those areas which are still considered an issue will be further developed for possible project work. Also, vacancies that exist on the current RCSN have been readvertised with applications closing on 23 April 2018.

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**The next meeting of the RCSN** will be on 18 July 2018 at Kukerin (8am-5pm) with accommodation supplied for all RCSN members for the night of 17 July 2018 following Open Forums at:

- 16 July 2018 - Cranbrook (2-6pm)
- 17 July 2018 – Jerramungup (8-11am)
- 17 July 2018 - Kukerin (2-6pm)

**Further queries?** Please call Julianne Hill (GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions Network Coordinator) on 0447 261 607 or email [regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com)