

GRDC RCSN | Albany Port Zone | RCSN Meeting 21 July 2016

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Meeting for the Albany Port Zone was held on 3 August 2016 from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm in Albany. The venue for the meeting was the Northbrook Farmstay (5800 N W Coastal Hwy, Northampton). This closed RCSN meeting followed on from three Open Meetings which were held in Newdegate (1 August 2016), Gnowangerup (2 August 2016), and Green Range (2 August 2016). The Open Meetings provided information/ideas that formed part of the closed meeting discussions. This was the second RCSN meeting for 2016.

Presentations at the meeting included: **Matt Denton-Giles**, Research Associate, Centre for Crop Disease Management who presented on Sclerotinia, Net Type Net Blotch and fungicide resistance work. Additionally, **Judson Wheatley**, Director DeBruin, Mount Gambier, provided an overview of the iHSD capability and progress of integrated iHSD and local trials of its effectiveness. Finally, **Sarah Collins**, Nematologist, DAFWA, presented on root lesion nematodes – extent and identification of potential solutions. In addition to the above presentations, **Andy Duncan** (Western Panel) and **Roger States** (Grower Services Manager, GRDC) also provided a GRDC and RCSN general business update. Presentations provided additional information to assist with meeting discussions. The meeting also provided an opportunity to gather ideas, possible activities and general questions on non-wetting soils for Craig Scanlan (DAFWA).

Those who attended the meeting included: Ben Ball, Ben Creek, Daniel McDougall, Mark Lawrence, Mark Pearce, Mark Sullivan, Stuart Witham, Trenton Parsons, Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Cindy Power (Project Support). Guests who attended the meeting included: Andy Duncan (Western Panel), Roger States (GRDC), Julia Easton (GRDC), Judson Wheatley (De Bruin), Craig Scanlan (DFWA), Matt Denton-Giles (CCDM) and Sarah Collins (DAFWA).

The current projects funded by the RCSN were also reviewed including projects from 2015-2016 and more recently funded projects from 2016-2017. Please contact the RCSN Coordinator for more information on the current funded projects. A key part of the meeting was the review of all issues from the February 2016 meeting, along with the data collected from the open meetings. The inclusion of the GroupMap tool data meant that members were able to review data more comprehensively in order to consider and then vote on key areas that may be taken forward for RCSN funding in the 1-3 year time frame or that would be forwarded to GRDC for consideration in longer funding period timeframes. From this, members then identified five top areas that they believed are impacting on profitability in their region and identified activities to address these issues, for possible development of project scopes. The top five priority areas and their general discussions included:

Ranked	Issue	Discussion
1	Root Lesion Nematodes (RLN)	Understanding levels of RLN in the paddock – confidence in test results. Rotational changes for planning decisions. Better knowledge of resistance and tolerance of Canola varieties.
2	Sclerotinia	Warning system, support for decisions- return to spray dollar.
3	Snails	Timing of baiting of snails. Cleaning and processing of grain at harvest.
4	Compaction and CTF	Economics are uncertain. CTF across different soil types in the port zone.
5	Waterlogging	Drainage systems and types, subsurface. Nitrogen application timing/rates – ROI.

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked. A full list is available from the RCSN Coordinator. All issues raised at the RCSN meetings 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 feed into existing or future initiatives.

Connect with Us. GRDC now have a Facebook page – www.facebook.com/theGRDC/ (like us!) as well as a dedicated RCSN website – www.rcsn.net.au. Follow us on Twitter @Julianne_Hill, or visit GRDC www.grdc.com.au.

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

The next meeting of the RCSN will be a combined meeting with all port zones on 1-2 March 2017.