

GRDC RCSN | Kwinana West Port Zone | RCSN Meeting 11 August 2016

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Meeting for the Kwinana West Port Zone was held on 11 August 2016 from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm in Wickepin. The venue for the meeting was the Wickepin Community Centre. This closed RCSN meeting followed on from three Open Meetings which were held in Moora (9 August 2016), Northam (10 August 2016), and Wickepin (10 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: **Steve Davies** (DAFWA Geraldton) who presented on improving germination on non-wetting soils through combining different effective techniques; and an update on any new information on managing non-wetting soils. Additionally, **Andrew Fletcher** (CSIRO Floreat) presented on Time of Sowing: To sow earlier with greater knowledge of risks; and **Sarah Hyde**, Facey Group EO presented an update on the Facey Group trials in 2016. In addition to the above presentations, **Peter Roberts** (Chair, 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.

Those who attended the meeting included: Ben Wilson, Bill Moore, Blayn Carlshausen, David Sermon, Gary Lang, Graeme McConnell, Jemma Sadler, Roger Newman, Tony White and Ty Fulwood, along with Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Gilly Johnson (Project Support). Guests who attended the meeting included: Peter Roberts (Western Panel), Roger States (GRDC), Jack McKie (GRDC), Vanessa Stewart (DAFWA), Stacey Hamsch (DAFWA), Steve Davies (DAFWA), Andrew Fletcher (CSIRO) and Sarah Hyde (Facey Group – part attendance only).

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	Sclerotinia	Identify source of sclerotinia infection.
2	Time of sowing	Early sowing - need to have a tool which provides information on early sowing.
3	Rhizoctonia and nematodes	Managing Rhizoctonia in barley. Nematodes an issue also.
4	Frost	Frost risks still an underlying issue with farm profitability. Understanding of soil moisture and how it relates to frost.
5	Non-wetting	Managing non-wetting soils in HRZ (forest gravels). Non-wetting - across variable soil types (different profiles) including duplex soils.

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.