

Network Meeting Summary

The Esperance Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met at the Lake King Golf Club on 25 June 2015. This meeting followed on from the first of the series of 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:

- **Bill Ryan** (Western Panel Member) who provided an update on recent GRDC activities.
- **Craig Brown** (RCSN Member) who provided an update on his lime substitution trial.
- **Mark Seymour** (DAFWA) who provided an overview of the work he is involved in with legumes and rotations.
- **Roger Lawes** (CSIRO) who provided an overview and update on the paddock monitoring project.

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 2015 seeding experiences and issues.
- Review of the priorities identified at the open meeting and identification of any gaps.
- Update on the next iteration of the RCSN project commencing 1 July 2015.
- Review of the progress of short term RCSN projects relevant to this port zone facilitated by Julianne Hill.
- Building on the open meeting priorities, further analysis issues affecting profitability. The table below provides an overview of the issues identified at the open meeting and how these were taken forward at the RCSN meeting.

Top 10 Issues (Group)	Top 10 Issues (Ranked by Votes)	RCSN Meeting Actions
Herbicide resistance and weed management	Herbicide resistance and weed management (22%)	Existing national initiative on this area. However, potential for 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority. RCSN booklet published - www.rcsn.net.au
Less rainfall – weather forecasting	Soil biology and health/soil acidity (18%)	Further discussion on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.
Input costs	Profitable break crops (13%)	Existing national initiative on this area. However, potential for 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.
Frost	Less rainfall – weather forecasting (12%)	Existing national GRDC work on this area.
Soil biology and health/soil acidity	Input costs (10%)	Further discussion on potential 1-3 year project activities to support this priority, particularly around VRT.
Disease (soil/STNB)	Frost (10%)	Existing national initiative on this area.
Profitable break crops	Marketing and pricing (6%)	No further discussion at this time.
Non wetting soils	Labour and machinery costs (5%)	No further discussion at this time.
Marketing and pricing	Disease (soil/STNB) (2%)	Included in soil biology discussions.
Labour and machinery costs	Non wetting soils (2%)	Existing national initiative led by Steve Davies on this area. RCSN Booklet published - www.rcsn.net.au

In addition to the above issues, the issues of communication and internet access/reliability was also raised, along with enterprise mix and farm sustainability. These issues will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table.

Further Details. 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.