

Network Meeting Summary

The Geraldton Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met at the Mingenew Recreation Centre on 14 August 2015. This meeting followed on from the last of a 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: **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. Additionally, the following projects funded by the Geraldton RCSN were also updated:

- **Richard Quinlan** (Planfarm) who provided an update on an early seeding trial (combined work with DAFWA).
- **Dani England** (AgInnovate) who provided an update on a farm advisory board project.

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, 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 (Open Mtg)	Top 10 Issues (Closed Mtg Workup)	Closed Meeting Priority Area Workup Actions
Seasonal variability (26%)	Soil health (23%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Input costs (chem, fert etc) (13%)	Seasonal variability (19%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities – priority worked up at closed meeting.
Farm business mgt, finance and IT (12%)	Profitable break crops (17%)	Existing national initiative and potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Soil health (11%)	Input costs (chem, fert etc) (17%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Profitable break crops (10%)	Farm business management, finance and IT (7%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Acidity (9%)	Non wetting (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Herbicide resistance (8%)	Acidity (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Non wetting (4%)	Herbicide resistance (5%)	Existing national initiative on this area – no further workup done at this meeting.
Breeding (4%)	Grain marketing (2%)	No further workup done at this meeting.
Grain marketing (2%)	Breeding (0%)	No further workup done at this meeting.

Members noted that the low voting for Grain Marketing and Breeding did not mean that they were not important, just that other priorities could have port zone related projects wrapped around them. These 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.