

GRDCs Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) meeting for the Kwinana West Port Zone was held on 18-19 July from 1.00pm (18 July 2017) to 1.30pm (19 July 2017) in Dalwallinu at the Dalwallinu Discovery Centre. This closed RCSN meeting followed on from three Open Local Forums which were held in Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu on 17-18 July 2018. This was the second RCSN member meeting for 2017, after a combined RCSN meeting in Perth on 1-2 March 2017.

Meeting attendees included: Ken Young, Brondwen MacLean, Jerome Critch, Jana Dixon, Ben Wilson, Bill Moore, Blayn Carlshausen, David Sermon, Gary Lang, Graeme McConnell, Jemma Sadler, Rob Dempster, Roger Newman, Tony White, Ty Fulwood, James Easton, Chris Wilkins, Craig Scanlan, Stacey Hansch, Bec Swift, along with Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Cindy Power (Project Support). Apologies were received from Trevor Syme.

The meeting included the following presentations:

- **Craig Scanlan (DPIRD) & James Easton (CSBP):** Micronutrient sources, interactions and efficiency. Past, current & proposed trial work.
- **Brondwen Maclean (GRDC):** GRDC Crop Nutrition Investment.
- **Ken Severson (Severson Agriculture):** Business Models.
- **Ravjit Khangura (DPIRD):** Farm Specific - Understanding Risk Level.
- **Ken Young (GRDC):** Senior Manager Crop Protection, RLN and Sclerotinia Investments
- **Rebecca McGregor (Liebe):** Liebe Group Update over Breakfast on day 2.
- **Chris Wilkins (for Julia Easton) (GRDC):** Crop Nutrition Investment.

In addition, Brondwen MacLean (GRDC) also provided a general GRDC and RCSN business update, with Jerome Critch from PlanFarm providing a dinner presentation. Presentations provided additional information to assist with meeting discussions.

The RCSN members then considered and voted on all ideas that had been gathered from the three Kwinana West port zone Open Local Forums, plus their own incoming ideas and ideas from the five growers they liaise with prior to each meeting. The top 10 ranked issues are listed in the table below.

ID number	Idea (C = Cunderdin; D = Dalwallinu; WH = Wongan Hills)	Expansion on Ideas	Where did the idea originate?
KW1	C, D: Frost mitigation strategies	D - A Frost management package needs to be developed that includes more than one or two management strategies to minimise frost risk. Needs to include different growing areas, different break of season, different sowing times, stubble retention etc., D - Does the removal of stubble solve issues of frost risk, crop establishment and reducing stubble burning needs. Is it economic to bale and remove stubble for alternative uses, eg. Feedlot litter, bio ethanol, fibre board.	Open meeting ideas (Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu)
KW2	C, D: Rhizoctonia and nematodes	D - rhizoctonia and nematodes - options for control and management, C - Rhizoctonia control in late established crops, especially barley	Open meeting ideas (Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu)

ID number	Idea (C = Cunderdin; D = Dalwallinu; WH = Wongan Hills)	Expansion on Ideas	Where did the idea originate?
KW3	<i>Seeding system set up for crop estab in drying soils, compare in field not salesman talk</i>		<i>RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting</i>
KW4	C, WH: Crop establishment in poor years:	Strategies (points, spacings etc) for better establishment in marginal moisture and dry seeding, WH - Crop establishment for a year like 2017. Years like this are becoming more commonplace and we need information on how to get good germination and establishment, rather than the patchy result like this season. There are good examples of paddocks that have been well established this year, so communication of what has gone right could be beneficial., C - Improving crop establishment in challenging moisture conditions after good Autumn but minimal planting rain events (soil preparation via machine or product application on to soil surface)	Open meeting ideas (Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu)
KW5	Cost of machinery vs value we are getting - high depreciation, low hours of use etc		RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting
KW6	Frost management packages - for different season breaks		RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting
KW7	In furrow vs inter-row seeding after dry years		RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting
KW8	C, D: Legume Extension	C - More extension about the importance of legume break crops in the rotation. Viable options for growers to increase the profitability of these crops., D - Profitable legume options. Extension of management concepts to support options for having legumes in the rotation	Open meeting ideas (Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu)
KW9	C, D: Business models	C- Business models - transition from a family farm operation to a business that does farming. Business management skills training. Up skilling the industry., D - Business models - effective management across entire business to ensure prolonged profitability	Open meeting ideas (Cunderdin, Wongan Hills and Dalwallinu)

ID number	Idea (C = Cunderdin; D = Dalwallinu; WH = Wongan Hills)	Expansion on Ideas	Where did the idea originate?
<i>KW10</i>	<i>Intense farm level herbicide resistance testing - perhaps subsidised test kits</i>	<i>GRDC comment: GRDC currently invests in a random Herbicide resistance survey across all grain growing areas in Australia on a 5 year interval. This is to provide the baseline on HR. Have also invested in looking at quicker testing methods.</i>	<i>RCSN ideas at beginning of Closed meeting</i>

The RCSN members were split into groups of three to work up the chosen priority areas as identified in ***bold and italics*** above. Members in were asked to further refine these top issues, considering the following:

- **IMPORTANCE AND SCALE** – geographical area, crop types, frequency, cost of control.
- **CURRENT SITUATION** – what do you currently do to manage this situation/issue?
- **END RESULT** – what & where would you like to see work happen (R, D or E)? What needs to change for this to happen?

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked; however, all issues including the high ranking issues that were further developed by RCSN members 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 in February 2018 in Cervantes.