

GRDCs Kwinana West Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) met for the first closed meeting of 2019 as a combined meeting with the Esperance port zone. The meeting was held during 26-27 February 2019 in Perth and included a combined dinner on 26 February 2019 featuring Brad Bryant of Independent Grain Handlers who was the guest speaker, followed by a combined meeting on 27 February 2019 at the Quality Resort, Sorrento Beach.

The following members attended the meeting: Tony White, Gary Lang, Roger Newman, Ben Wilson, Ty Fulwood, Bill Moore, Blayne Carlshausen, Daniel Dadd, Chad Hawksley, and Dani Whyte with apologies from Jon Hasson and David Sermon who were unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was also attended by a number of GRDC members and facilitated by Julianne Hill with RCSN project support by Cindy Power, Helen Ablett and Gilly Johnson.

The meeting included the following agenda items:

- Seasonal updates and reflections on 2018 harvest.
- Guest presentation by Richard Simonaitis, CEO of AEGIC.
- Updates on the progress of RCSN ideas since the last meeting and GRDC general update.
- Identification of port zone top issues, including reviewing data collected from the Summer Sesh forums held in Dongara and Busselton held in January 2019.
- Guest presentation by Kirk Jeitz on his farmer tour of Denmark, Estonia and Germany, along with a guest presentation and deep dive on the topic of trace elements and nitrogen by Dr Rowan Maddern of GRDC.
- Review by Julianne Hill on an innovative decision making tool using MS Excel developed by Jerome Critch (Geraldton RCSN).
- Review, discussion and expansion on the port zone top issues, leading to the identification of the issues to be further developed using the MAKAT process (see below).
- NVT committee updates.
- Meeting evaluation, discussion of next meeting dates and formal meeting close at approximately 4.45 pm.

The Top 10 Issues and those that the RCSN further developed with a MAKAT (in bold) included:

- Growers are not checking or calibrating spray machinery occasionally leading to less than effective spray applications
- More legume and pulse agronomy is needed to enable growers to improve their rotations
- Long term results/comparison of harvest IWM methods
- Green on green weed identification technology is not really delivering and not yet applicable
- Further work in cereal breeding to deliver value to growers
- **There is little frost agronomy work undertaken in canola which is a large part of many growers programs**
- Seasonal rainfall has a major impact on profitability. Growers need better weather forecasting options
- Ability to test crops in real time for added nutrient application to maximise yield gain if seasonal conditions are positive
- Implications of the new uses for 2,4-D. and the effect on weed control options both for summer spraying and in crop situations
- Canola agronomy particularly around nutrition, blackleg and grazing
- **Integrated weed management for oats.**

The selected topics for the MAKATs included (as per bold above):

- Frost in Canola – agronomy management
- Integrated weed management (IWM) in Oats

The Kwinana West members then completed two MAKATS on the above topics, using the online GroupMap tool which enabled capture of ideas and information against the MAKAT framework. The MAKAT framework is the methodology upon which projects are then taken forward for consideration by GRDC.

The next meeting for the Kwinana West RCSN will be a tour to South Australia during the period 21-25 July 2019. For further details, contact the RCSN Facilitator Julianne Hill on 0447 261 607 or email regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or visit www.grdc.com.au or www.rcsn.net.au