

Project: Review and demonstration of different rotations and break crops for Western Australian growers – WA Crop Sequence Calculator Workshops. Project number: FMO00003-A

BIO: Rob Sands Mobile: 0427 380 973; Phone: (08) 9295 0940; rsands@farmanco.com.au; Farm Management Consultant with FARMANCO since 1991 and consults to clients throughout the Central Wheatbelt. Rob also has a role in developing software for Business Analysis, and Production Benchmarking. Rob has specialist knowledge in business analysis, and farming systems including grain and livestock enterprises. Rob has also had input into a number of research projects looking at farming systems.

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

Break crop project, outcomes, recommendations, tools and calculators	Mark Seymour, DAFWA
Paddock Measurements and records, what are the trends in the WA farming system	Greg Shea, DAFWA
Farm Rotations and grower profits. What are the profit drivers for choice?	Rob Sands/Ben Curtis, Farmanco
Agronomy and rotations, how the decisions are made. Where to from here? You've been given the information, now how do you tie it together?	Phil Smyth/David Cameron/ David Ward, Farmanco
Group Discussion: crop rotations and drivers	

KEY POINTS:

- Workshops well received, and interaction was better with smaller groups.
- Requires well regarded and experienced presenters, with local knowledge.
- Important to combine the production research with economic modelling.
- The session using the Farmanco Rotation Model worked well, particularly when using local benchmark data and the including the input from participants.
- Strong demand for access to the model and more workshops.

FURTHER WORK REQUIRED:

- Run more workshops with a limit of 10 Farm Businesses
- More data at paddock level to determine rotational influences on productivity and cost structures. Data needs to be from farmers paddocks not research plots.
- Develop the Farmanco Model to make it more available through an online portal, although still best driven by an experienced consultant.

PHOTOS:

