

Minutes
CQ RAC Meeting
Held 30th August 2012
Emerald Agricultural College Conference Room
Meeting commenced at 9.30am

1. Opening – welcome by Chairman

Chairman Graham Spackman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

2. Attendance

Members: Graham Spackman (Chairman) Peter Key, R Sequeira, David Jordan, M Ballentine, Colin Dunne, Nigel Gregg , Gordon Saul, Doug Howard

Nominees: John sheppard, Dr M Hickman.

Co-ordinator: (Acting) Damien Scanlan

Guest Speaker: Damien Scanlan

3. Apologies

Col Douglas, Shane Eden, Michael McTaggart, Peter Durkin

4. Confirmation of Agenda

5. Confirmation of Minutes (1st September 2011)

Minutes read by Gordon Saul. Moved as true and correct record. Seconded by Doug Howard Carried

6. Business arising from Minutes (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

Nil

7. Correspondence and Other Business (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

7.1 Grower Solutions Group) Richard S outlined the GSG operating plan. The emphasis for the groups on is to focus on short term issues. The group had not long started, too early to comment on effectiveness.

7.2 Central Queensland Updates.

7.3 Discussion on Ascochyta in CQ

Yield potential could be lower this year- big canopy not a lot of,
- cereal ergot is not in sorghum ,Ergot 0.3% tolerance

7.4 General discussion around lack of scientific presence in the North. A strong feeling exists from the growers that there needs to be stronger DAFF presence in the North. Soil scientist is required and the position for weeds agronomist advertised needs to be located in the North. CQRAC resolved to write to the Minister with respect to the above.

8. Northern Region PIP (NR PIP)

Graham Spackman presented major RAC priorities at the Consultative Grains Meeting in Dalby. Graham spoke of the need to have Scientists stationed and working in the North and the value that it would bring to

Northern Grain production. DS said that Northern Growers needed to continue to push DAFF to establish critical science mass in the North.

9. RAC's

Colin Dunne suggested individual growers invite younger growers to participate in the RAC meetings. DS outlined the recommendations of Chris Bazley's Report into the Review of the RAC's copies which will be available on the Website.

10. Members Reports

Mike Ballentine

- Season good, chickpeas are flowering (2 weeks later)
- wheat is quicker, no astochyta. There is a requirement for grain driers still necessary.
- Additional pulses are necessary in the North. Pigeon pea could be a good fit.

Col Dunne

- Chickpea huge growth,
- Early frosted flowers – now flowering some 1 metre high,
- Later wheat has yellow spot and low nitrogen from flooding, nutrition work needed.
- Sorghum dry down problems, stay green can be a problem.
- ergot and honey dew could be a problem.

Nigel Gregg

- Mungbeans disappointing – puffy pod and bunch tops needs more reseach.
- Sorghum ergot problems from Feb plant,
- Some weather damage, late wheat is nitrogen deficient,
- phytophera in chick peas

Gordon Stall

- Extremely wet year, astochyto in chickpeas,
- Fungicide program challenging,
- Conflicting information on spray timing.
- need more breeding solutions
- Yellow Spot is about later wheat,
- serious drift issues of MCPA/ALLY in Chick peas,
- wheat on Mungbeans plus 50kg N - not good results

Peter Keys

- Chick pea significant loss with Py and southern Qld/NNSW
- Astochyta in C Qld
- Pistol, CQ variety was slow to flower / management
- Broadleaf weed control problem, simazine and crop oil used for ongoing weeds.
- Spraying out Chick peas could be an option

- Boundary and Hat Trick not for the North
- 5 years for the release of new astochyta resistance lines
- Mungbeans Crystal –puffy pod devastated MB in the north
- new 7213 Crystal release for next year
- new lines have halo blight resistance
- wheat water logging N deficiency as well as Yellow Spot prevalent
- Wheat, seeing frost about
- screening dry land rice varieties for drought resistance
- microbial population in wheat
- population studies looking to put a project together in above

David Jordan

There is a second planter to minimize travel issues, a new header for the North and Pre- breeding project for the North. They are making lines that are more stable. They are looking at pollen viability. The QUAFFI is helping generate extra funds. Application made to the Bill Gates Foundation. Stay Green is giving difficulty with Management – harvest. Has a good effect on grain size lodging and yield. Doing some work on root architecture and Emerald is a very important part of going forward. Continued work on agronomy for stay green lines. David spoke extensively re pollen production.

11. Guest Speaker: Damien Scanlan

Outlined GRFL Institute Proposed Model. The North would particularly benefit because of the more commercial approach to grains R&D. Growers can look at the detail on the GRFL website. A third breeding platform was discussed and suggested be part of the new Institute Model.

12. Field Inspection

Looked at Chick Pea Lines with Peter Keys

Discussion on the value of Robotics and robotic spraying

13. Nominees Reports

13.1 CQU– Richard Sequeria

Grower Solutions Group.

- Application made for temporary permit to double knock paraquat to deal with feathertop
- Crystal defoliation – trials
- chickpea /wheat rotation
- grower information days not well attended
- December grower meeting is on again
- RAC priority is robust and this is not seen in grower solutions groups.

13.2 DAFF: Dr Mark Hickman

- Gene bank to relocate to Horsham Victoria
- Alphatoxin Program, summer agronomy project, Pigeon Pea Project
- Looking for a research agronomist for Emerald for Nutrition with Mike Bell.
- Good Bug Bad Bug guide has been released
- New pathotype for powdery mildew in Sheppard Barley
- new planter and header for CQ Research
- pasture stylo project with MLA

- GRDC Grower Solutions groups met at Brisbane
- Question re Biloela Research Station/What does it have?
500ha/water/bird proof/sat rooms, 3 glass houses, machinery sheds, soils
- there is not the infrastructure at Emerald
- Grass weeds a major project.

13.4 GRDC: John Sheppard

- Breeding for chick pea diseases, diagnostic services, CSIRO to look at potential paddock performance,
- Positions available for Northern Panel – 40 days minimum up to 80 days \$550 day plus travel,
- longer coleoptile breeding objective

14. Next Meeting

14.1 Date: March 2013

14.2 Venue: TBA

14.3 Invited Speakers:TBA

Meeting Closed: 4.00pm

Damien Scanlan

Acting Co-ordinator