

Minutes
SEQ GRAC Meeting
held Tuesday 21st August 2012
at the JBPRS Kingaroy Taabinga Room
commencing 9.30 am

1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members

2. Attendance

P Enkelmann, W Learmont, N Jorgensen, J Cross, V Green (GRDC), Dr E Colson (DAFF), A McDonald, C Clark, T Rook.

Coordinator: J Obst

Speakers: Dr A Robson (DAFF) Dr G Wright (PCA), P Went (DAFF)

3. Apologies

I Crosthwaite, P Harden, J Kingston, G Birch, Dr D George (UQ)

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed

5. Confirmation of Minutes (21st February 2012)

Confirmed as true and correct.

6. Business from Minutes (not covered elsewhere on agenda)

6.1 Commercialisation of improved Navy Bean Varieties

A McDonald reported that slow but positive progress is being made regarding new lines. Arwon has performed very well. He is confident that the Australian navy bean industry will grow in size as prices appear to remain strong due to production problems in USA and Australian processors focused on securing their supplies from Australian producers.

6.2 Chick Pea Agronomy in Burnett.

The Coordinator reported that he wrote to Ms Gentry DAFF regarding the SEQ RAC concerns about the need for up to date agronomic information for Burnett chick peas. He also had telephone conversations with G Cummins (Pulse Australia) and Dr C Douglas (DAFF). The Coordinator again undertook to inform key people about managing excessive chick pea growth resulting in poor pod set. Possibly this excessive growth problem could be looked at in the Grower Solutions Group project.

6.3 Stored Grain Insect Workshop March

No report provided.

7. Correspondence and Business (not covered elsewhere on agenda)

Nil

8. Northern Region Priority Issues Paper (NR PIP 2012)

8.1 NR PIP 2012: The NR PIP 2012 has been published and copies sent to key research agencies and all RAC members as well as approx 150 Queensland grain growers. It is posted on the Company Website.

The above distribution of the NR PIP 2012 was noted. Ms Green said that the inclusion of the new section "Spotlight on Current Major Issues" was very helpful to her.

8.2 Queensland Grain Research Consultative Meeting: This meeting was held at Dalby on 6th July 2012. The 4 RAC Chairs met with senior representatives of key research agencies (DAFF, QAAFI, CSIRO, GRDC). The NR PIP 2012 was formally handed over to the R&D agencies.

The Chairman reported on the results of this meeting. The key R&D Agencies were well represented by senior management. He said that the meeting provided an excellent opportunity for high level consultation to take place. There was considerable discussion about the format of agronomic information. R & D Agencies are moving more towards 'digital' rather than hardcopy however the focus is on being able to print off hard copy information on specific subject areas. DEEDI under past government policy was required to reduce hard copy information. The Chairman said he pushed for an investment into new summer pulses however under the present R&D agency and funding arrangements there appears to be difficulties in someone taking ownership of non levied crops. Pulse Australia undertook to consider this. Ms Green reported that following the Dalby meeting, GRDC has undertaken to consider pigeon peas as a potential summer pulse.

9. RACs

9.1 Review: The Foundation engaged Mr Chris Bazley to conduct an external review of the 4 Queensland RACs. This was the first formal review since 1995.

The Coordinator reported that the Bazley Review has been completed and the report is under consideration by the GRFL Board.

9.2 RAC Membership: Under the RAC Charter of Operations there is a 3 year term membership of the RACs. The current 3 year term ends around 30th September 2012.

The Coordinator reported that the GRFL Board is yet to make arrangements for the re-selection and appointment of the RAC memberships.

9.3 Coordination: Future Coordination of RACs

The Coordinator reported that this on-going role will no doubt be considered under the recommendations of the Bazley Review of the RACs. Presently GRDC provides funding for the coordination role of the RACs.

10. RAC Members' Reports

Each RAC member (not Nominee) reported on current & emerging production issues limiting profitability and any emerging opportunities.

- Very little winter crop planted in the Kumbia area
- Some cut back in dairying with swing to grain
- Excellent peanut crops this season but more net blotch and sclerotinia from cool and cloudy weather
- Dryland maize yields of 5-7 t/ha
- Peanut holding market value
- Late planting of peanuts in Wooroolin area
- Re-emergence of peanut diseases due to wet season
- Market demand for summer pulses strong but delivery slow due to buying in smaller lots
- While cereal prices are strong growers appear interested in keeping pulses in their rotations due to their value to the system.
- Beaudesert has received lower summer / winter rains however crop yields have been excellent.
- Bunya soybean variety performed well with \$50 to \$70 / t market premiums. Fernside variety suffered severe insect pressure and lodged
- Water (supply and price) becoming a major issue for grain growers in Beaudesert region.
- Burnett growers experiencing delays in moving cotton to gins due to large production this season
- Concern over the demise of barley production in the Burnett region due to excessive diseases.

11. Guest Speakers

11.1 Dr Andrew Robson (DAFF) and Dr Graham Wright (PCA) reported on remote sensing technology to maximise productivity and sustainability in peanuts.

11.2 Dr Phillip Banks (DAFF) was not able to attend to report on his experience with Mexican Pulses.

Dr Colson said that Dr Banks is able to propose a project for consideration. It was discussed that some new summer pulse crops could be assessed in the Grower Solutions Project funded by GRDC to determine their potential.

12. Grower Solutions Group

Peter Want (DAFF Kingaroy) reported on the formation of the Coastal Grower Solutions Group Project recently funded by GRDC. The focus of this 3 Year project is on 1 to 3 year research priorities. He said that there are 3 nodes to this coastal project (Coastal Burnett, Inland Burnett and N Coast NSW) I Crosthwaite BGA is the coordinator of the Burnett Node of this project. An initial meeting was held on 4th July with a number of Burnett grain growers and agronomists. Mr Went said he is providing 20% of his time to the project. Presently ideas are being gathered for the project to focus on. A Management Committee of 3 is being established to oversee the Inland Burnett project. Messrs Crosthwaite, Enkelmann and one other are the members. It is expected that the project will get underway in Spring. Possible ideal to consider could include manure management in zero tillage and maize plant populations.

13. Nominees Reports

(Note: Each Nominee was invited to report on their Research Agency operations with a focus on Activities and Outcomes relevant to the South East Queensland grains region ie. Burnett, West Moreton, Coastal)

13.1 DAFF: Dr E Colson

- Grains 2020 was an initiative of the previous government and not this present government, therefore there is uncertainty about whether any of the Grains 2020 proposals will still move forward.
- Final outcome of the staff reductions in DAFF is not known.
- Major focus on post harvest grain protection in CRC Plant Biosecurity. Associated extension project will continue.
- Good Bug / Bad Bug booklet recently published
- Flax leaf Fleabane and Feathertop Rhodes Grass brochures just published on the DAFF website, available as pdfs which can be printed out.
- Principal Weed Scientist position has been advertised, appointee will be based in Toowoomba to lead the weed sciences R,D&E team as well as conducting research.

- 13.2 GRDC NP: V Green
- Investment planning for 2013 project funding undertaken last week
 - Projects arranged by either direct negotiation or through tendering
 - RCN (DAFF) leading the new Summer Pulse Improvement Project. Pigeon peas will be included.
 - Grower Solutions Group Project based on the successful Northern Growers Alliance approach
 - Northern Panel GRDC membership to be reselected in 2013
 - GRDC is adopting policy of sending hard copy material out to growers only on request to reduce unnecessary cost.

14. General Business

14.1 Burnett Grower Update

It was agreed that a Grower Update be held at the Kingaroy Research Station around March 2013

14.2 DAFF Maize Improvement Project.

It was agreed to arrange for the next meeting, a presentation on the progress on the DAFF Maize Improvement Project.

15. Next Meeting

15.1 Date: Late February 2013

15.2 Venue: JBPR Station Kingaroy

15.3 Invited Speakers: Possibly Maize Improvement Program

16. Closure

Meeting closed at 2.30pm.

