

DD-RAC meeting DALBY – Monday March 25th 2013.

Attendees: Ben Coleman, Bede O'Mara, Daniel Skerman, James Ryder, John Piper, Chris Joseph, Brendan Taylor, John Griffith, Brian Warren, Vicki Green, Dr John Thompson, Dr Anke Martin.

Apologies: Todd Jorgenson, Paul Griffith, Chris Hornick, Andrew Ruhle, Doug George, Wade Bidstrup, Wayne Newton.

Chair for the meeting: **Ben Coleman**

DD Minutes from August 2012 – read out by Ben Coleman - minutes accepted.

Moved: Bede O'Mara, seconded John Piper.

GRFL- RAC Report, Michael Burgis.

RAC's charter, GRDC review of RAC's, Bazley review.

GRFL grower owned business. The Foundation is involved in the following;

- a) QLD RD&E review, they have engaged a consultant to provide a report on the formation of a new Research Institute model for Qld.
- b) Approached the Qld Ag Minister to run the Eagle Farm quarantine centre that is being axed by DAFFQ, it plays an important part of providing new germ- technology for the industry.
- c) The Foundation made an application to commercialise a new barley variety line from the Hermitage barley program.
- d) Reappoint and re-in vigour the RAC's. The foundation intends to engage members via short questionnaires and website forums during the year.

Bazley RAC overview: *Need younger people involved, lots of great work from the RAC network that was not being promoted. Ensure that the feedback from the long term research priorities is fed back to the farming communities. The RAC's are the conduits for extending the messages from the research effort, therefore the committee members need to promote the messages. The industry consensus clearly felt there was a need for the RAC function in regards to RD&E matters in Qld.*

Member Reports:

A summer of extremes (wet post Xmas) making summer crop harvest difficult. Discussion about spraying out sorghum – black layer is the best indicator of when to harvest. Grass issues, sprayed Dual/Atrazine earlier than normal with variable results. Growers are starting to apply higher rates of Nitrogen, up to 100 units. Lots of country will be double crop after all the rain. Quality issues with this season's sorghum crop, staining (fungi), sprouting, hectare litre weight of grain is okay, bulk handlers have a subjective approach to quality, it varies from each delivery site. Weed issues and FTR grass, the impact of continuous use of Round-Up. CS gas exploration continues, what is the impact on water quality? New Qld water legislation and trading rules at years end. Soil damage from recent flooding, it has undone all the earlier remedial work from the previous flood. QRAA funding for repair work is confusing, many regions have been excluded. Late planted sorghum has less grass (barnyard, FTR and urochloa) problems, applied 1.5l of Dual/ha. **Shatter cane** in sorghum, still an issue across the Downs, no clear response from Pacific Seeds, hybrid seed contaminated, the label states that 0.5% weeds seeds is acceptable. A **major issue** for the industry,

it is a major problem in the US. What happened to the Pacific Seeds Quality assurance program?
Good subsoil moisture in many areas for forthcoming winter season. Nutrition: declining soil water nitrogen levels. Massive de-nitrification due to flooding and prior to floods there was some leaching. Deep planting trials need to reflect the different soil types. Plenty of chickpea will be planted this winter.

Dr John Thompson- DAFFQ . Nematodes in wheat, currently monitoring tolerance in wheat varieties. DD trial results show that protein can be managed by good nutrition. DAFFQ is currently engaged researching nematode resistance. DAFFQ is trying to produce germplasm for the breeding companies to use in their wheat breeding programs that has tolerance and resistance to the two species of nematode. Pulse crops are good host for RLN so rotating into wheat in subsequent years could easily result in poor yields. DAFFQ- Toowoomba, provides a soil test service for RLN, (Root legion nematode) approximately, \$175.00 per paddock

Dr Anke Martin-USQ. Update on Crown Rot research, very difficult to accumulate gains, trying to gain multi-gene benefits.

Vicki Green - GRDC northern panel representative. Update on Northern Panel tour and the feedback they received, provided an update on GRDC's communication strategy, it is currently under review. (The RAC's are part of the review category) . We had three days in Canberra with Southern and Western panel members, the panel members worked up the major issues via region. Major issues for the northern region, communication, nematodes in the farming system, chemical registration, agronomy issues; eg, wheat varieties (genetics), mungbean management packages, soil health (southern and western panels claim it is not a high priority). Weeds and nutrition are common theme issues across the country.

Chairman – Ben Coleman closed the meeting and thanked the members for giving up their time.

Next Meeting: AUGUST 2013