



MINUTES DD RAC MEETING – DALBY RSL – 3RD SEPTEMBER 2013

Attendees: Wade Bidstrup (Chair), Ben Coleman, Daniel Skerman, Joe Eyre, Julianne Farrell, Chris Hornick, James Ryder, Steven Muller, Andrew McCartney, John Piper, Brendan Taylor, John Griffith, Brian Warren, Vicki Green, Dr Anke Martin, Dr Ann Starasts, John Cutler.

Apologies: Todd Jorgenson, Chris Joseph, John Kummerow, Dr John Thompson, Bede O'Mara, Andrew Ruhle, Doug George, Wayne Newton.

DD Minutes from March 2013 – distributed prior to meeting, taken as read - minutes accepted.

Moved: Ben Coleman, seconded Vicki Green.

GRFL- RAC Issues

Research Institute model for Queensland.

Ben gave a full outline of the proposal and current progress. There has been no formal response from the minister. The hard work is continuing.

The meeting consensus supported the concept and for efforts to continue.

GRDC review of RAC's

John Cutler briefly of that the review recommended GRDC should cease funding RAC's. GRFL will discuss this further with GRDC and will continue to support RAC's to ensure a strong grower voice in the spending of grower levies on R&D.

Communication

Brendan Taylor said that he regularly participated in twitter chat rooms and found it to be very interesting. A Tuesday forum, #agchat 02, has set questions, a moderator and has free for all discussions. Unfortunately there is a lot of garbage at times. It can be a very useful bush telegraph and you can access any time you have mobile coverage. Members commented that some has used webinars and that email discussion still had a place. Ann Starasts discussed her interest in this area and agreed to discuss it briefly later.

Member Reports:

John Kummerow (forwarded before meeting)

This year we decided that we were going to try a couple of new crops - Guar and Canola.

The Guar did well but the limiting factors were that it was a very old variety. this year however, we are going to put in a new variety (snow white) which in trials last year almost yielded double the old one, so if that were replicated we would see almost 1ton to the acre yield. Other than that the only problems we had with it was broadleaf weed control so we may need to look at doing an inter row cultivation. The only broadleaf chemical that can be applied is 2-4D B.

The Canola was going along great until last week (1.5 mt tall) with the severe frost and it's looking like we might have to cut it for hay and/or silage. So that is a limiting factor with it certainly for its grain potential now, reducing the yield by > 50%. That said however we are still hoping that the hay/silage market might actually produce a better return than the grain.

John Griffiths

Some stem frost in wheat. Feels new varieties more susceptible. Feral pigs a problem. Barley sprayed for aphids. There have been issues with urea supply.

James Ryder



Planted chickpeas late to get away from frost. Chickpea market has dropped with defaults in Bangladesh market. Also there is a big crop in India.

Brendan Taylor

Issues with sorghum quality, reduced when grain became in short supply. Early chickpeas frosted. Good august rain, some phyto noticeable in compaction areas. Wheat is maturing early after the mild winter.

Dan Skerman

More cotton in his area.

Steve Muller

Frost but did not worry canola. Other areas report damage.

Vicki Green

Desperate for rain. Chickpeas look ok. Still cleaning up flooded ground. Crops on flood damaged areas are badly affected.

Wade Bidstrup

Corn progressing well. Planted early August at 12000plants/ha. Getting results planting early using multi-cob varieties. Other crops need rain. Fabas not affected and will harvest in about 2 weeks.

Chris Hornick

Crops planted in July late enough to miss frost. Fallow with moisture may go into cotton. Big yields from Jan planted corn. Major problem with pigs coming down the river after recent floods. Can easily shoot 40 per night resulting in large piles of rotting carcasses.

Sorghum has been a problem crop for many growers who are likely to change to cotton.

Brian Warren

Little winter crop. White Kabuli chickpeas are looking good. Good moisture for summer crop.

John Griffiths

Canola flowering, has stood up to frost. Getting "cross pollination" from Roundup Ready crops. marketing sunflowers an issue for growers.

Andrew McCartney (Condamine Alliance)

CA is a vehicle for government funding to go back to the environment. They are looking to link environment more closely with production and profitability. Already they work with 90 partners across their program. The trend is away from specific investment and a desire to link with agric research as well as the private sector.

Dr Joe Eyre (QAFFI)

Joe has been working on an ACIAR cropping project where inter-cropping maize has been very successful. Current work is on maize spatial arrangement, whole farm N cycling and summer crop root distribution.

Dr Anke Martin (USQ)

USQ is putting more \$ into research and will be seeking additional external funding. Anke's focus is on putting wheat crown rot resistance into durum with 100 crosses made this year.

Dr Ann Starasts (USQ – Australian Digital Futures Institute)

The group follows on from the USQ work with on-line learning.

Ann is developing a project called "Digital Connections in Agriculture" which may involve post graduate students working with growers and the grain industry.

Other issues being looked at by the ADF Institute are:

- How people use mobile phones to learn



- Potential social effects and policies on NBN
- AVATAR – virtual world for climate
- Remote access laboratories for engineering
- Widening educational participation for remote areas

Julianne Farrell

There is 20 years of mice mapping data on the Mt Tyson transect. Trapping will occur again in September which will indicate probability of problems early next year. The long term model suggests there will be problems. The warm winter increases the likelihood. The project has registration of a new rodenticide underway. A leaflet explaining the nationwide project was distributed.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Pulse Breeding Programs (Col Douglas)

National mungbean improvement program 2011-2016 lead agency DAFF
Australian chickpea breeding program 2011-2016 lead agency NSW DPI

Mungbean variety release pipeline

JAd-Au available now - long term yield gain of 12% over Crystal with equivalent agronomy and grain quality. MR to powdery mildew.

2014 - Replacement for Celera, Green Diamond - -improved yield, halo blight and agronomy.

Possible replacement for Regur - yield, halo blight, tan spot resistance

Breeding for productivity, reliability

NMIP focuses on large shiny Crystal types. 400 lines have been imported, 7 resistant to Halo Blight, 10 to Tan Spot with one line resistant to both and with large seed.

New strain of halo blight identified in 2013 but resistance is available in black gram lines. Three previously resistant parents are susceptible.

Chickpea Breeding Program

Chickpea variety releases

PBA HatTrick

PBA Boundary

PBA Pistol

CICA0857 - Oct 2013

Queensland Pulse Agronomy Initiative (Howard Cox)

Pulse crops can aid sustainability and reliability to cropping systems and allow more focus on P & K management. Organic N will be found deeper in the soil profile. Grass weed management can be aided.

Qld cropping systems have a low %age of pulse crops, 8% in winter and 4% in summer.

Currently the applied R&D project is investigating row spacing, planting time with 2 commercial varieties and one experimental. Howard is keen to hear from growers on their on-farm issues with pulse agronomy.

Next Meeting: March 2014