

Minutes
SEQ Grains RAC Meeting
held 26th February 2008
Cane Growers Building
48 Churchill Street, Childers
commencing 9.30 am

1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members. He thanked Mr Kingston for arranging the venue.

The Chairman mentioned:

- QRAC Chairs tele-conference with Chair GRFL
- AgForce convened meeting on BMP for grain
- High EPA fees
- Grain industry back foot on Green House Gases

2. Attendance

P Enkelmann (Chairman)	J Cross	Nominees:
T Rook	N Jorgensen	DPI: M Hickman
I Crosthwaite	J Kingston	GRDC: G Wright
P Harden	A Cruickshank	
C Clark		

J Obst (coordinator)

3. Apologies

Received from W Learmont, G Mills, R Coe, D George (UQ), E Colson (QDPIF) **Accepted**

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed

5. Confirmation of Minutes (27th July 2007)

Moved J Kingston Seconded I Crosthwaite **Carried**

6. Business from Minutes

6.1 Update on Red Solis Program.

Project is now underway. Co-funded by GRDC & SRDC @ \$150K ea. Project specifications being brawn up.

Resolved to write the Dr M Bell referring him to the Priority Issues.

6.2 Update on the Peanut Breeding Restructuring.

Project presently being finalised with PCA as the lead agent and QDPIF a collaborator. Project will focus both on dryland and irrigation systems. 2 of the last 3 releases have been for dryland systems. The longer term focus will be 3/5 irrigation 2/5 dryland focus. Foliar disease resistance is a high priority.

6.3 Protocols for Aflatoxin testing in crop stubble.

QDPIF had prepared an Agri Note on aflatoxin avoidance in hay. Agreed to circulate this note.

Sampling procedure remains the problem.

6.4 P Enkelmann's report on Soils Workshop

The Chairman reported on his attendance at this workshop (RAC provided some registration fee support). He said the workshop focused too much on the past with not a lot about managing for the future.

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

Nil

8. Overview of RAC Operations

The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the operations of the RACs and the specific tasks to be completed within each 3 year term.

9. RAC Members to Report

Sample of points mentioned:

- Wheat yields from 2 t/ha downwards & barley 0.75 t/ha downwards
- Present summer crops have excellent yield potentials
- Coastal soybean crops have 2.8 to 3+ t/ha yield potentials
- Soybean nodulation has been a major problem possibly in 500 ha of the 700 ha planted
- Problem seems to be with the freeze dry inoculums and not the peat based product
- Genetic purity has been poor in soybean mother seed
- Chemical application courses run in coastal area. (send J K Chris O'Donnell contact details)
- Now only limited cropping in the West Moreton. Most crops damaged from heavy rains /floods.
- Some seed germination on mature crops. Ergot a problem.
- Spray drift becoming a problem
- Dryland peanut production down due to past 3 drought years. Shift to cereals / grazing
- Nufarm working on fungicide registrations

10. RDE GAPS discussions

At the last RAC meeting, possible GAPS in the current RDE program were identified. RDE Agencies were invited to comment on these GAPS. (RDE Agency Notes are Attached)
 Discussion points included:

L o B	Possible GAP	Comments
Varieties	Dryland / Irrigation Peanuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project's objective is to breed for both dryland irrigation systems
	Minor Grain Legumes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Azuki patients (held by Japanese interests) due to end shortly ▪ AC responsible for Navy Bean improvement for 2 years following Dr B Redden's departure. Had 'near ready' release before program ceased. ▪ Navy Bean rust a big problem in Australia. US producers windrow crop. ▪ South Africa has good Navy Bean lines ▪ UQ discussing options for Navy Bean improvement ▪ QDPIF has well focused Mung Bean improvement program. Currently testing some crosses. (potential new crops a possible topic for UQ Scoping Study)
Practices	Minor Crop Pest Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ QDPI provides technical advice to GRDC / AOF etc on minor crop pesticides (provide info on Pesticides for Minor Use in Crop..)
	Etiella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PCA investing \$5 K annually. Not issue outside S Burnett ▪ Aflatoxin still biggest problem and need to control Etiella to control aflatoxin. Industry will have to fund this.

11. Northern Crop Breeding Programs (refer to attached report)

Coordinator reported briefly on northern crop breeding programs
 Some discussion points were:

- QDPIF has employed a maize breeder located at Hermitage Research Station. Focus will be on identifying useful traits for dryland maize production.
- EGA (QDPIF/ NSW DPI/ GRDC) Wheat Breeding Program has been wound up with breeding material passing to AGT. QDPIF will now invest in germplasm enhancement.
- QDPIF will continue to focus on sunflower rust (but in reduced capacity) and roll in Tobacco Streak Virus.

12. Lessons from Canadian Agriculture for the SEQ agricultural Region

Member Colin Clark outlined issues from Canadian agriculture which might be of significance to SEQ agriculture.

Sample of issues;

- Road freight very high
- Rail cant can't cope with grain movement so major on farm grain storage (95% stored on-farm)
- Crop bodies do major community promotion
- Government appears to well fund grains research
- Researchers very energized about the grain industry
- Strong focus on soil health (manures, compost etc)
- Still a lot of caution on GM with concern over pollution of non GM crops.
- Big uptake of GPS and Tram Tracking
- Storage of high moisture grain not a concern due to winter snow
- Movement into fully integrated farms (grain production / feed lots etc) its about working smarter
- Interest in biofuels and concern over Climate Change

13. Review of 2007 Priority Issues (PI) for 2008 Reporting

In 2007 considerable time & effort were given to reviewing and re-structuring presentation of the RDE Priority Issues. There is a need to annually review these PIs and if necessary tighten up wording and reprioritize.

3 Groups were formed to review and report back to a plenary session on an allocated section of the PIs) The results of this Plenary Session are attached.

Each Group was also asked to identify up to 3 major EMERGING ISSUES in the region. The results were:

Lines of Business	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Varieties			1. Grain quality for food safety (eg mycotoxins)
Practices	1. Environmental impacts and associated taxes (eg N2O, CO2)	1. Control of legume weeds in legume crops.	1. How can industry cope under impact of

	2. Use of mineral & organic fertilisers	2. Control of viruses in legume crops (eg capsicum chlorosis virus, tobacco streak virus)	high input costs (diesel, fertiliser, chemicals)
New Products	Bio-fuels		
Communication Capacity Building	Skills shortage in agriculture		

It was resolved to write to GRDC informing it that the control of Etiella in peanuts remains a very high priority

14. RAC Nominees Report

- 14.1 DPI- M Hickman
- Australian Governments developing a National Research Strategy
 - This will involve 3 levels of engagement ie
 - a. Lead
 - b. Participation
 - c. Linked
 - For example Queensland will take a lead role in feed grains and fodder, tropical / sub tropical pulses, tropical IPM, sorghum and maize.
- 14.2 CSIRO- Dr A James
- No report provided
- 14.3 USQ- Dr D George
- Written report tabled
- 14.4 GRDC- Dr G Wright
- Public call for applications for NP GRDC positions. Closes 7th March 08.
 - NP undertaking a SQ autumn tour and will attend the Grower Updates
 - GRDC Website continues to be improved for technical and project information.
 - GRDC called tenders for maize improvement. QDPIF selected. 12 mth interim funding with review. Focus will be on pre-breeding. Similar to QDPIF's sorghum program.

15. General Business

Nil

16. Next Meeting

- 16.1 Date: 12th August 2008
- 16.2 Venue: JBPRC Kingaroy
- 16.3 Invited Speakers: Dr Solomon Fekybelu (R Williams)

17. Closure

Meeting closed at 3.15 pm. An inspection followed of local central soybean storage and soybean production.