

Media Release

Tuesday June 24, 2008

On-going independent wheat variety information has been identified as a key area of concern in the 2008 Priority Issues Paper (PIP) which was released by the Grains Research Foundation Limited (GRFL) last week.

The 2008 Priority Issues Paper was developed by leading grain growers and associates on the eight Research Advisory Committees (RACs) in the Northern Grains Region which covers southern and central Queensland and northern NSW.

The RACs met in mid 2007 and again in early 2008 to identify the production issues of greatest concern to their regions.

National Variety Testing (NVT) is a national independent program of comparative crop variety testing that is managed by the Australian Crop Accreditation System (ACAS) Limited under the guidance of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

GRFL chairman Damien Scanlan said issues regarding the present value of the NVT were identified by most RACs.

He said Queensland growers have particularly expressed concerns that the present NVT database is not yet a suitable replacement for the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) Wheat Varieties Guide for Queensland.

“The raising of this issue through the PIP 2008 has led to GRDC and ACAS attending some RAC meetings in August to see if we can get the NVT in better shape in the Northern Region,” Mr Scanlan said.

“RAC meetings will be held in Emerald, Toowoomba and Goondiwindi in August and these will be opened to all growers.”

“The Foundation’s role is to take up the issues that arise from the RACs and get results for growers.”

The Priority Issues Paper 2008 has now been released to key RDE Agencies and industry organisations including the QDPI&F, the CSIRO, GRDC and all major universities.

Mr Scanlan said he encourages these agencies to use the PIP 2008 to help shape their research priorities for the future.

“The PIP provides a very close link between what the growers are looking for and what the research providers are looking at,” he said.

“It is a highly relevant document that has been created by a group of growers and their associates who have very considered opinions about the sort of research that needs to be done in the field crop industries.”

“This is unique in that there are no other formal forums in which growers get to have their say on the future direction of research in their industry.”

The PIP 2008 is available to the wider industry on the GRFL website by visiting www.grf.org.au
A hard copy is available by contacting the RAC Coordinator on 0407948746.

ENDS

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