

Minutes of SEQ RAC Meeting – 22 March, 2011
Joh Bjelke-Petersen Research Station, Kingaroy

meeting commenced at 9:40am

1. RAC introduction- not required.

2. Chairman's Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests.

3. Attendance

Members: P. Enkelmann (Chairman), C. Clark, J. Cross, N. Jorgensen, J. Kingston, I. Crosthwaite, P. Harden, A. McDonald, G. Birch.

Nominees: E. Colson (QDPI), A Sanderson, (GRDC), G Fitt (CSIRO)

Guests: L Moller

Co-ordinator: L. Webb

Apologies

W. Learmont, T. Rook, D George.

4. Election of Chairman

With the commencement of the new RAC term the existing Chairman, Peter Enkelmann, stood aside and nominations were called for the position of Chairman.

Peter Enkelmann was nominated (moved C. Clark, seconded A. McDonald) and elected unanimously and unopposed as Chairman for the coming year.

5. Confirmation of Minutes from the meeting of 24 August, 2010

Confirmed

6. Business from Minutes

6.1 chemical registrations - it is unlikely that a permit will be issued for 24 – DB in soybeans. Need for residue trial data. Nufarm is unlikely to support it at this stage. Suggestion is to seek joint funding.

6.2 Pigeon Pea project- project is continuing. RCN Rao has contracts in ICRISAT. To be followed up.

6.3 Fleabane-need to redo letter to AgForce better explaining weed management around guideposts.

6.4 RAC Chairs met with GRDC Northern Panel and discussed weeds issue.

6.5 GPA Constitution- the coordinator advised that GPA's structure was similar to GRFL's in that membership was open to growers directly.

6.6 Crop notes - chairman advised that the chair of GRFL had written to the Minister and a reply had been received which indicated that data was available online. He also advised of a call from Paul Grieve to the chairman SEQRAC assuring that the extension position will be filled at JBPRS, and further that he is going to arrange an independent review of the agricultural research and extension at JBPRS. The Agronomy extension will continue. Dr Colson advised that a team has/will be set up with a 3 to 4 year transitional period. Entomology is likely to be provided out of Toowoomba. The department has limited resources and obtaining key staff is difficult and tabled a trial version of crop management notes and a CD.

7. Business

7.1 **Bio-security- chemical labels.** Ian Crosthwaite advised that he had met with bio security and advised of the following points.

- do not exceed maximum rate advised on the label
- do not break withholding period
- crop must be identified and the label
- mixing chemicals is okay provided the crop is on the label
- okay to use by air as long as it doesn't say not to
- using below label rate is okay
- can use adjuvant if not on label
- some labels specify what records must be kept
- must take all precautions to minimise drift e.g. nozzle type, wind direction, smokers et cetera. This will not absolve the grower from responsibility, but will mitigate circumstances if taken to court.

Mike Bell's project summary.

“Short-term ley phases for fodder production”

The main point was a very high K removal even in dryland pastures. e.g. on red soil it was up to 404 kg K per hectare over a two-year period.

8. RAC members' reports

- Col Clark**
- crop modelling for chickpeas not accurate
 - go sprayed with ??????????,?????? and ploughed in
 - chickpeas sensitive to light for flowering.. Dense crops flower but do not set -
 - seed. Canopy management is important.
 - Crop management-still need a book.
 - Area devastated but not as bad as some.
- Greg Birch**
- a season to forget
 - feedlotter struggling to get good quality grain.
- Neil Jorgensen**-30% of area planted
- having difficulty in killing waterlogged weeds
- John Kingston** -very few soybeans and the wider area
- many areas washed out -----
 - heaps of weeds
 - what to do about herbicide mixes-need some information from experienced grower and consultants
 - cane looking good
- Julian Cross**
- finished wheat harvest one day and started planting corn the next
 - summer planting difficult, ground either wet or hard
 - crops hammered by wet conditions
 - expecting big wheat and barley crops

Ian Crosthwaite-50 to 60% of the area is planted

Andrew McDonald -Soybean area down significantly
-Mungbean area higher than expected
-need to increase the rate of glyphosate for desiccation, need 2.2 to 2.5 L per hectare Roundup PowerMax
-minor use permits for tebuconazole in Mungbeans for powdery mildew control, mixed with insecticide
-Soybean area is declining- varieties are not available

Peter Enkelmann -Byee floodplain wiped out in the flood
-soils went like slabs
-late Mungbeans planted. Needed heat units for Mungbeans and Cotton.
-Biggest flood since 1893
-BP dam mitigated flood height

Wayne Learmont -not planted any corn, hundred acres of peanuts.

Nominees reports

Aaron Sanderson Mungbeans-new project continuation with Col Douglas
- AVRDC in Taiwan's source for Mungbean germplasm
-looked at coastal adaption for Mungbeans
Chickpeas-based on southern material
-new project starting in July in conjunction with lentils field peas etc. \$1.0MIL
Pulse agronomy project e.g. defoliation
Sorghum- new material coming through
-more collaboration in pre-breeding with WSU
-Staygreen come to an end
Soybeans-18 months joint project to go with CSIRO, I & I
-new varieties released e.g. Moonbi-coastal with good weathering and protein
-industry is not big enough to spend many research dollars
Weeds-GRDC northern region biggest expenditure in excess of \$1 million
-northern region integrated weed management project-bringing small weed projects under one project.

Dr Emma Colson -DEEDI is an economic department and a lot of money has been spent on flood assistance issues
QAAFI-20 DEEDI staff have joined so far with some projects having moved to UQ.
-Now known as Crop and Food Science instead of Agri Science
- contracted for Crown Rot- generic enhancement project started
-grain storage project underway
-Field Crop Direct-new addition in 6 weeks
-agencies doing R&D, I & I, DEEDI, CSIRO-need to ensure the lead agencies covering all areas.
-National framework-having identified projects, next stage is delivery

Dr Gary Fitt -serious flood impacts at Gatton-trials under water
-importantly no loss to germplasm
-\$9 million estimated loss
-National invertebrate pest initiative
-sustainable ecosystems staff in Brisbane Toowoomba Townsville Cairns and Atherton

- will retain staff and research at Gatton
- CSIRO-\$40 million budget into agriculture
- moved away from field-based productivity research
- now no horticultural research other than wine grapes
- less and less government funding available
- requirement to find 50% of funds externally

-4% of staff located in northern Australia

9. Guest Speakers

Rao CN (RCN) Rachaputi- Effect of root zone temperature on growth and development of mungbean (Crystal)

- Significant variability in performance of Crystal across environments
- Limited understanding of the physiological basis for G X E interactions for new mungbean varieties
- Improved understanding of G X E is vital for better varietal and management decisions

Conclusion

- Root zone temperatures can override air temps in influencing crop phenology
- Root zone temp <25 C delay emergence, flowering and overall plant growth
- No major effect on pod set but had major influence on rate of pod fill (& maturity)
- Root zone temps (rather than air temps) should be considered while planting mungbean
- Implications for redefining parameters for the mungbean crop growth model

10. Review of priority issues for the South East Queensland region- see PIP

11. Next meeting

Date: Tuesday 23 Aug 2011

Venue: Kingaroy

Speakers: Mike Bell

12. Closure

Meeting closed at 3:30pm