

**Minutes**  
**South East Qld RAC Meeting**  
**held JBPRS Kingaroy**  
**On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007**  
**commencing at 9.30am**

**1. Opening & Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members. N Jorgensen was welcomed as a potential new member. Another recently appointed member Julian Cross submitted an apology for this meeting.

**2. Attendance**

W Learmont (Chairman)  
A Cruickshank  
P Enklemann  
J O'Shanesy  
I Crosthwaite

G Mills  
C Clark  
J Kingston

**Nominees**

K Heit (QDPI)  
C Joseph (GRDC)

**3. Apologies**

Apologies received from J Cross, R Coe, G Wright, D George, E Colson, P Harden, A James  
**Accepted**

**4. RAC Coordination**

The Coordinator referred the members to the attached report. The main issue being that GRF/GRFL has replaced Twyford & Associates on the GRDC funded project "Northern Region RAC Coordination" commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes ( 21<sup>st</sup> July 2006)**

Agreed that the minutes be accepted as true and correct

**6. Business from Minutes**

6.1 Sorghum Workshop-Bribie Is:

The Coordinator reported on the Workshop which was attended by several RAC members

6.2 Review RAC naming

This issue has not been dealt with by GRFL.

6.3 Dr Robert Baker UNE

The Secretary advised that he had contacted Dr Baker following the last meeting. C Joseph advised that GRDC has also been in touch with Dr Baker.

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

8.1 In: GRDC Northern Investment 2006-07

8.2 Out: Letter of support to Dr M Bell

Inward and Outward Correspondence was noted

**8. RAC Members to Report**

- Past winter and present summer seasons have been a disaster due to prolonged drought
- Very good soybean crops along the central coast for culinary seed quality and yield forecasts of 4t /ha.
- Some scattered Burnett sorghum crops under patchy storms could yield 2t / ha
- Some black eye beans (human consumption) being grown. Similar to Mung Beans
- The risk is 'quality' for if rejected cannot be used for stock feed
- Maize looking ok around Kumbia
- Crops around Wooroolin ok but urgently require rain to finish
- Renewed interest in dubosia
- Concern over viability of cropping as growers trend towards lower risk / lower input crops. This included a possible trend away from peanuts
- If cotton prices remain at present low levels and sorghum remains around the current high prices there will be a shift from irrigated cotton to irrigated sorghum
- Peanut production along central coast performing well with potential annual production of 10,000 tonnes which would represent 1/3 of Australia's production

- A lot of concern over glyphosate resistance as growers rely more and more on this herbicide
- As industry shifts to some culinary products there is a need for soft options to compliment IPM.
- Considerable concern over on-going heavy soil losses which are not being prevented by reduced / zero tillage

## 10. RAC Nominees to Report

- 10.1 DPI&F (refer to attached Report prepared by QDPI)  
*It was agreed that the Chairman write the GRDC expressing strong support for research to continue for Red Soils Farming Systems.* **Action Required**
- 10.2 GRDC  
 C Joseph provided an update on GRDC matters
- 10.3 GRFL (notes on GRFL provided with agenda papers)  
 Noted

## 11. Guest Speakers

- 11.1 Future Direction for Sorghum Breeding  
 Dr A Cruickshank, recently appointed sorghum breeder at Hermitage RS, reported on the QDPI Core Sorghum Improvement project
- 11.2 Good Bugs / Bad Bugs. Where are we at in Soil Biology  
 Dr N Seymour reported on soil biology in cropping soils and the opportunities for improved management of soil biota.

## 12. Review List of Opportunities and Threats

To ensure that the RAC was considering the future direction of the regional grain industry when determining current and emerging priority issues, it discussed the most likely opportunities and threats. Those of most importance included:

- Supply / Price of Inputs
- Future Markets
- International Price Outlook
- Community Expectations, Environmental Requirements, OHS
- Hi-tech Farming

## 13. Review Crop Importance Profile 2005-08 and 2012-2015

The RAC members completed a Crop Importance Profile for now and in 10 years time based on profitability and sustainability taking into account the major opportunities and threats identified in 12 (above). Based on this the crop options were categorised as follows:

| Importance Category | Crop    | Forecast Change by 2015-18   | Comments   |
|---------------------|---------|--|--|
| Dominant            | Peanuts | Possible slight decrease in Burnet with increase along central coast | Peanuts historically have been the dominant crop. High inputs costs may constrain production. Central coast developing as key area |
|                     | Sorghum | Possible slight increase   | Dominant crop on the black soils and for local livestock markets (grain/ forage) Low input costs                                   |
|                     | Maize   | Possible slight decrease   | Dominant rotation crop with peanuts  |
| Important           | Wheat   | Stable   | Wheat is an opportunity crop supplying the local feed markets  |
|                     | Barley  | Stable   | Barley is an opportunity crop supplying to the local feed markets  |
|                     | Soybean | Possible increase  | Culinary soybean production along the central coast is proving successful in rotation with sugarcane                               |

|       |           |        |  |
|-------|-----------|--------|--|
| Other | Mung Bean | Stable | Considered an opportunity crop requiring specialist management |
|       | Millet    | Stable | Opportunity summer crop  |

#### 14 Review List of Priority Issues

The members broke into 3 groups to review nominated Priority Issues for SEQ taken from the PIP 2006. Each group was asked to review, add, amend, combine & delete and prioritise the issues based on the pre-meeting re-prioritisation results and the discussions that had taken place in the meeting so far.

Groups were encouraged to think strategically, removing broad sweeping issues and replacing with specific detail where possible, keeping the issues in "grower speak" and to prioritise on economic impact from profitability and environmental considerations.

Each group reported back to the members on their results and following any amendments, additions, deletions and re-prioritisation the Priority Issues for 2007 were agreed to. This included identifying the highest priority issues. The complete list of the 2007 Priority Issues for SEQ RAC are attached.

Highest Priority Issues for 2007 are as follows:

|                                    |                 |   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Varieties                          | Peanuts         | Breed for yield, upright plant, resistance & avoidance of aflatoxin, resistances to sclerotinia, white mould & CBR & Cadmium uptake   |
|                                    | Sorghum & Maize | Breed sorghum & maize suitable for dryland conditions, resistance to ergot (sorg) suitable for feed, ethanol & silage markets and trap cropping advantage   |
|                                    | Grain Legumes   | Breed for increased yields of soybeans, mung beans, chick pea, navy bean & azuki for irrigated & dryland situations with weathering resistance & quality suitable for the food markets.   |
| Practices                          | Diseases        | Develop BMP to effectively manage aflatoxin, sclerotinia, white mould and CBR in peanuts. ( need to review this)  |
|                                    | Insects         | Develop and implement an area wide management program (AWMP) for insect control in all crops based on an IPM approach   |
|                                    | Insects         | Develop BMP for on-farm stored grain, including early insect detection methods and promote need for adoption. This includes developing NIR to monitor & preserve grain quality  |
|                                    | Climate Change  | Build Risk Management (RM) tools into Crop BMPs to assist growers to adjust to climate change   |
|                                    | Soils           | Develop an understanding of the impact of current crop rotations on soil carbon, soil nutrients, and soil biology and provide BMP to maximise the benefits.   |
|                                    | Nutrition       | Develop a better understanding of the soil chemistry for K (in all soils) Mg (in vertisols) and Ca (in acid soils) and provide BMP to maximise crop yields  |
| Communication & Customer Relations | Information     | Continue to ensure that research outcomes are rapidly extended to growers for adoption. R&D projects need to build in a clearly defined extension component. Printed crop notes are still regarded as a high priority. Field days and workshops are also highly valued for effective extension. |

#### 15. Topics for detailed discussion at next meeting

Grain Legumes:- Gordon Cummins Pulse Australia

BMP Peanuts:- Dr Emma Colson QDPI (with respect to diseases)

Soils:- Dr Mike Bell QDPI

Peanut Vision:- Bob Hanson PCA

Carbon Trading:- Dr Peter Grace QUT

Chemicals:- John Sandow GRDC

- 16. General Business**  
**Resolved** that the Chairman write to Jack Twyford thanking him for his support to the SEQ RAC over the past 10 years **Action Required**
- 17. Date & Venue for next meeting**  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at JBPRS Kingaroy (next meeting possibly at Bundaberg)
- 18. Closure**  
Meeting closed at 3.30 pm.