

**Minutes SEQ Grains RAC Meeting
held Friday 1st August 2008
at JBPRS Kingaroy (Main Building Meeting Room)
Commencing 9.30 am sharp**

1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

2. Attendance

P Enkelmann (Chair) G Mills
I Crosthwaite
J Kingston
J Cross
T Rook

Nominees

QDPIF: Dr E Colson
UQG: Dr D George
NP GRDC: R Taylor
CSIRO: vacant

J Obst (RAC Coordinator)

Guests: J Ferguson & J Gentry (QDPIF)

3. Apologies

R Coe, A Cruickshank, C Clark, W Learmont, N Jorgensen, P Harden. Dr G Wright **Accepted**

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed

5. Confirmation of Minutes (26th February 08)

Confirmed

6. Business from Minutes

6.1 Chairman's report on meeting with NP GRDC: Meeting is scheduled for 25th August08 at PBI Narrabri NSW.

6.2 Letter to Dr M Bell re priorities: Dr Bell was informed of SEQ RAC priorities.

6.3 Letter to GRDC re Etiella: Letter was sent to Dr R Rainbow GRDC.

7. Northern Region Coordination Arrangements for 2008 -2011

The Coordinator reported that funding arrangements for 2008-11 were still under negotiation with GRDC and AgForce Grains. In the meantime GRLF continues to provide the coordination role in 'good faith' of funding being provided.

8. Correspondence and Business

PIP 2008: The Coordinator said that this report was finalised and hard copies printed. The report has been posted on the GRFL Website and the link provided to approx 250 researchers and agronomists. Hard copies have been mailed to all RAC members and RDE Agencies. Hard copies were mailed to approx. 300 active Queensland grain growers.

8.2 Northern Region GRDC Investment Report 2007-08: Copies mailed to RAC members.

8.4 QDPIF Business Plan 2008 – 2013: Copies mailed to RAC members.

9. RAC Members to Report

Following is a sample of comments made by members:

- Many peanut crops yielded exceptionally well last summer season
- Current winter crops have excellent potential.
- Prospects for a favourable 2008 -09 summer crop look excellent.
- Short season peanut varieties are preferred. Walter variety performed exceptionally well.
- Burnett growers may look again at soybeans for rotational value.
- Mice a current problem in region. Some field losses to standing maize crops.
- Some maize baiting is being carried out mainly in black soils. (Contact Peter Cremasco QDPIF and advise of outbreaks)
- No soil nematode testing conducted in the Burnett. Not considered a problem.
- Irrigators moving from cotton to grain / grain legumes.
- Growers looking at legumes / manure to replace fertilisers.
- Still on-going transition from grain to grazing although current grain prices attractive.
- While coastal focus is on soybeans there is some wheat & barley planted.
- Could be up to 5000 tonnes soybean produced in the Isis and Bundaberg regions.
- While coastal soybean nodulation was a severe problem didn't appear to affect final yield.
- Frazer soybean variety yielded 3.8 to 4.0 t/ha despite heavy aphid infestation.
- Soybean industry still negotiating future breeding initiatives with GRDC.

- An annual 30,000 soybean crop does not provide significant levies for breeding and that a royalty stream is required for on-going breeding if breeding is not to be at risk.
- CSD has built a world class state of the art soybean processing facility at Westbrook.
- Need ascochyta management program for coastal chick pea.
- Small kenaf industry in Isis area has collapsed with no product outlet.
- Increasing fertiliser costs a major concern.
- Need to consider a wider range of crops to grow considering nutrition costs.
- The SEQ RAC has had a focus on soils more than crop breeding options.
- Growers using a range of manures on 'try some and see' basis.
- Need a trail looking at range of fertiliser options on different crops.
- Sorghum x Maize x Peanuts main cropping options.
- Some interest in sunflower but need broadleaf herbicide.
- Biggest issue with peanuts is still aflatoxin. Need on-going research to include short season variety to avoid stress and pods with thicker shells.
- Peanuts becoming cheaper to grow relative to other crops.
- Concern over move back to cultivation and away from zero tillage to control fleabane.
- Soybean becoming more attractive to grow than peanuts along coastal strip.
- South Burnett still carries the peanut industry.
- Stored grain insects becoming an increasing concern.
- Difficult to stop receiving Ground Cover – GRDC needs to review mailing list. (advise GRDC)
- GRDC needs to link Grower Updates to its Website. GRDC logo needs to be prominent of Updates.

10. PIP 2008

There was general agreement that the Northern Region PIP 2008 format was an improvement of previous reports.

11. Presentations (max 30 mins each presentation)

11.1 Ms J Gentry, QDPIF Pulse Development Officer: Mr Gentry reported on the Pesticide for Minor Uses in Grains Initiative. This is a GRDC funded project managed by Messrs Bodnaruk and Jones of ACA.

During discussions, a number of pesticides were nominated for consideration under this project. These included:

1. Fungicide for controlling mildew in Burken mung beans.
2. Herbicide for controlling bellvine in mung beans.
3. Insecticide for controlling GVB in soybeans and Red Banded Shield Bug.
4. Fungicide for controlling rust in soybeans.
5. Insecticide for controlling aphids in mung beans

11.2 Ms J Ferguson, QDPIF Pulse Development Officer: Ms Ferguson outlined the role of the PDO particularly in relation to services to the SEQ Region. Ms Ferguson would focus on Soybeans while Ms Gentry would focus on Mung Beans and Chick Peas.

12 Key Drivers of Change

The following were determined as the 4 Major Key Drivers of Change to the regional cropping profiles and production systems.

No.	Key Driver	Comments
1	Input Costs	The rapidly increasing costs of chemicals, fuel and fertilisers will challenge current cropping systems (ie zero tillage) and increase the interest in rotating legumes and considering alternative fertilisers.
2	Commodity Prices	With the tightening of world stocks grain prices have reached a new pricing platform and may possibly hold this level for some time. This may make grains more profitable than some pulses and oilseeds and grazing.
3	GHG Emissions	Emissions Trading will most likely add to increased farm input costs, restrictions on on-farm emissions (CO ₂ and N ₂ O) and provide opportunities for on-farm sequestration
4	Commodity Demand	There is an increasing demand particularly along the eastern seaboard for feed (intensive livestock) and industrial (energy) grains

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Review Crop Importance Profiles for 2007-10 and 2017 -2020

Based on the above KDC the Crop Importance Profile was reviewed and amended to:

2007-10 Importance Category	Crop	Forecast Change by 2017-20	Comments
Dominant > 25% Importance	Peanuts	Possible slight decrease in Burnett 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	Stable	Dominant crop on the black soils and for local livestock markets (grain/ forage) Low input costs
	Maize	Stable	Dominant rotation crop with peanuts.
Important >15% <25% Importance	Wheat	Stable	Wheat is the main opportunity crop mainly supplying the local feed markets
	Soybean *	Possible increase	Culinary soybean production along the central coast is proving successful in rotation with sugarcane. There could also be an increase in the Burnett due to its lower fertiliser requirements.
	Mung Bean	Stable	Considered an opportunity crop requiring specialist management. Could be increased interest due to lower fertiliser requirements.
Opportunity <15% Importance	Millet	Stable	Opportunity summer crop
	Navy Bean		
	Barley	Stable	Barley is an opportunity crop supplying the local feed markets

* Note soybean is regarded as the dominant crop along the coastal strip.

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RAC Nominees to Report

14.1 DPI: Dr E Colson

The following is a sample of issues mentioned or discussed:

- QDPIF has exited wheat breeding licensing its wheat breeding lines to AGT.
- QDPIF is now developing its pre-breeding initiative for wheat.
- QDPIF is undertaking significant capacity building in plant protection ie diseases & insects.
- A principle plant pathologist is being appointed to LRC Toowoomba.
- 3 wheat varieties were recently released through EGA. These were Bounty, Stampede and Kidman.
- A junior plant pathologist is being appointed for barley.
- QDPIF seconding a researcher to CPAS UQ Gatton.
- New Mung Barn variety (Crystal) has been released

Dr Colson undertook to explore providing a written report to the RACs

14.2 UQ: Dr D George

The following is a sample of issues mentioned or discussed:

- UQ Gatton partnering with QDPIF researching parameters to maize production in more marginal regions.
- Coal Ash application on cropping soils and effects on yields (maize/ peanuts).
- Research on Parthenium.
- Reduction in staff at CPAS. QDPIF looking to second research staff to CPAS.
- Grain industry needs to review value of CPAS particularly for spray application technology.
- Endosulfan could possibly get approved for grain crops under some accreditation scheme possibly using an approved Grain BMP for chemical application.
- UQG talking to GRDC about scope for improving navy bean varieties. Would possibly need BGA co-contribution.
- BGA engaged in work experience program with UQG students.

14.3 GRDC: R Taylor

The following is a sample of issues mentioned or discussed:

- NP GRDC is conducting an audit of the northern region science and facility capacities.
- Coastal and northern regions seen as high potential for cropping expansion.
- There is a number of small crop breeding programs in the northern region.
- Summer Crops Update at Dalby 19/20th August 08.\

It was proposed that GRDC should contribute funding to leadership training. Mr Mills was invited to present a Discussion Paper to the next meeting.

15 Election of Chairman

Mr Enkelmann was nominated by J Cross.

Mr Enkelmann accepted

16 General Business

Nil

17 Next Meeting (Date / Venue / Speakers)

Date: 24th February 2009 (to be confirmed)

Venue: JBPRC Kingaroy

Speaker: Dr Solomon Fekybelu QDPIF on maize breeding for dryland situations.

18 Closure

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.