

Minutes of SEQ RAC Meeting – 24 August, 2010
Super Room, Shire Council, Kingaroy

meeting commenced at 9:30am

1. Chairman's Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

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

2. Attendance

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

Nominees: E Colson (DEEDI), D Fairbairn (GRDC), D. George (UQ)

Guests: S Walker (DEEDI), D. Scanlan (GRFL)

Co-ordinator: L Webb

3. Apologies

G. Fitt, J Kingston, W. Learmont,

4. Confirmation of Minutes from the meeting of 22 March, 2010

Confirmed

5. Business from Minutes

5.1. Crop Notes Booklet- Crop management notes in hard copy format are required by growers. It was noted that NSW RAC's had access to a Publication & that a letter had been sent to the Minister requesting a Qld publication in hard copy. In the absence of any subsequent satisfaction from that quarter it was considered that some potential existed for a commercial to take up the process. It was advised that DEEDI processes include updating online so as to be a focus of extension access in the future. Web-based resources are well and good, but growers want crop management notes that they can read and make notes on at their table, as well as carry around in their ute as an on-farm resource.

5.2. Limited farmer-centric information is available to help make crop planting choices. It is fine to use agronomists as a resource, but farmers want to access information directly as well. The lack of availability of comprehensive information is having an impact on the uptake of new varieties.

5.3. Nufarm - registration 2,4-DB – Ian Crosthwaite advised that undertakings had been given that would see approval for restricted use & Pat Harden advised that it likely it would similarly be approved for peanuts..

6. Business

6.1. New \$6m International Grains Research facility in Narrabri

Mr Scanlan advised that the Centre was part of the Uni NSW operated on a sublease from Grower owners. It was part of the National "Centre of Excellence" sites and was supported by GRDC recognition of the need for broad acre cropping research appropriate for the Northern Region. It was noted that the Walgett area was now one of large significance.

6.2. Link to the GRDC Northern Panel's plan

It was noted that use of 24-DB with Shielded sprayers had Statuary Declaration issues.

6.3. DEEDI's response to questions from AgForce about grains RD&E in Queensland

It was considered that matter be best dealt with by other chairs.

6.4. Productivity Commission inquiry into Rural Research and Development Corporations

Action It was resolved to follow up on this matter.

6.5. National issues update:

Grains Producers Association.

Damien Scanlan, Chairman GRFL, gave an outline of progress in the formation of GPA advising that it will be formally established on 27 Aug. 2010. He stated that it was with full GRFL support that Mr Mailer of GRFL, had taken a lead role in the formation and that GPA will become the Peak Body of national Grain Growers whose representation and voting rights will reflect their level of production. It was noted that the constitution was likely to be very similar to that of GRFL. He expected that there remained a meaningful role for state bodies.

Future GRFL Direction and Funding

D Scanlan Chairman GRFL advised that GRFL would continue the role of coordinating RAC's in line with existing MOU's in place with AgForce and the State Gov. and current processes. The research matters arising from the void left by the Gov. will be prominent as will the need to develop a relationship with GPA. The matter of funding was a difficult issue that has prominence. The matter of the Leslie Research Centre and potential new site replacement was likely to require close involvement..

6.6. QAAFI update (Queensland Alliance in Agriculture and Food Innovation.)

Dr Williams provided an update and slide presentation on the QAAFI Institute at the University of Queensland.

UQ and QDPI are developing QAAFI in order to strengthen agricultural research in Queensland, get better industry outcomes, attract additional funding(up to 40%), and increase student numbers. QAAFI will formally be established 1 Oct 2010, with approximately 40 QDPI staff expected to become UQ staff (that being about 10% of Deedi staff). QAAFI will focus on three main areas: plant science (including grains), animal science and food technology. QAAFI will be a "virtual centre", with no new infrastructure being built to house the Institute.

7. Guest Speaker

7.1. Col Douglas, Mung Bean and Chickpea Breeder DEEDI, Warwick

Mr Douglas presented an extensive slide presentation on the developments in Mung Bean breeding which indicated some improved lines had been identified having better disease resistance than current commercial lines and that improvements in yield were significant also(up to 20%).

He thought a 100,000 tonne market existed. Current production was about 50,000 tonne

7.2. Steve Walker, Deedi, Principal Research Scientist Weed Sciences Team Leader

7.3. Mr Walker presented a PowerPoint presentation on Weed research and management practices and advised that personnel included Emerald-1 Scientist , 1 Technical Officer, Toowoomba -4 Scientist , 3 Technical Officers, Tamworth -1 Scientist , 1.5 Technical Officers

It was noted that weeds management research was multi faceted including In depth Science studies, simulations, and on farm trials. Communications utilised traditional forms with additional use of workshops and online tools. It was noted that Glyphosate resistance was becoming common.

7.4. Pat Harden, General Manager Farming - Peanut Company of Australia Limited

Pat gave an overview of his recent visit to USA and noted that they have a voluntary 1% research Levy. No new herbicides were on the horizon and the research was focussing on adapting from other crops. Glyphosate resistance was a big issue.

7.5. Andrew McDonald, Specialty Grain Procurement, Bean Growers Australia Limited

Andrew presented a brief report on his Conference in Canada. Canadian Special Crops Association. www.specialcrops.mb.ca

8. RAC members' reports

RAC members reported to the meeting.

Comments included:

- not much wheat planted
- Mung beans crops looking good
- Aflatoxin levels OK
- Fireweed problem
- Heliothis in Pigeon Pea

9. RAC nominees' reports

RAC Nominees reported to the meeting.

Comments included:

- UQ Science Facility restructure Jan 1
- Sept/Oct wheat/ Barley doc available
- Additional Weed Funding expected post election
- Crop protection continuing in Northern region

10.

11. Next meeting

Date: 22/02/2011

Venue: Kingaroy Research Centre, Tabinga room

Speakers: to be advised.

12. Closure

Meeting closed at 3.45pm