



GRDC Tasmanian Research Advisory Committee Meeting No.1

*Thursday 23rd June 2009
TFGA House, Launceston*

Present:

Michael Chilvers, Tom Edgell, Andrew Dowling, Richard Johnston, Nick Steel (TFGA)
GRDC; Tom McCue, Mark Peoples and Carolyn Pearson

Apologies:

Angus Lyne, Richard Gardner and Tom Green

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting started at 10.10am. Nick Steel welcomed everyone to the first Tasmanian GRDC Research Advisory Committee meeting.

2. Overview of GRDC

Mark Peoples provided an overview of the GRDC RAC and Southern Panel. GRDC lines of business included: Varieties; Practices; New Products; and Communication & Capacity Building.

GRDC is funded by grain farmer levy at 1% (24 leviable crops) of production and matching Government funding. Annually on average GRDC receives \$110 Million in funding, of that 60% is grower levies.

\$40.1M of GRDC investments goes to the Southern Region (SA, VIC, Southern NSW and Tas), which equates to 45% of total regional budgets.

Tom McCue provided further information on RAC's – www.grdc.com.au/rac

- purpose of RAC is to identify and document RD&E priorities facing the industry, plus provide feedback on R&D products and services
- RAC regional numbers within each state: SA 3; VIC 3; NSW 6; QLD 4
- 2 meetings per year are usually held in February/March and August/September

Action: GRDC to provide a copy of what projects are happening in the Southern Region to RAC members.

3. GRDC Lines of Business

Varieties: include areas of pre-breeding, breeding programs and National Variety Trials (NVT).

Practices: include areas of agronomy soils and environment, crop protection (weeds), variation and integration, and extension and grower programs.

New Products: include areas of new value added programs and services, emerging technologies and integration into Australian farming systems and new grain food products.

Communication & Capacity Building: includes improving adoption of research outcomes, products and services, communication of GRDC outputs and capacity building.

- Capacity Building includes – funding towards training, scholarships, attending conferences, field days, grower exchanges (between states) and raising awareness of grain industry.

4. Identifying & Prioritising Current and Emerging Issues

The committee discussed in detail what some of the current and emerging issues are for Tasmanian grain growers – see attached list.

These issues will form the basis for the coming meetings. There is an opportunity to get experts from GRDC at the next meeting to talk about any issue in more detail.

6. Committee Structure

6.1 Choosing a Chairman

Committee agreed that we should have a chair, however at this stage no one was willing to commit.

Action: Committee to decide, before the next meeting, who should be chair.

6.2 Size – do we need to include more growers or other industry stakeholders on committee?

Committee would like the following people contacted to see if they would like to join the Tasmanian RAC.

- Agronomist – Geoff Dean (Roberts, TIAR, SFS)
- SFS Representative – Nick Taylor (Chair)
- Consultant – Terry Horan
- Grower – Rob Terry (Deloraine)

7. Other Business

Tom McCue asked what training programs GRDC could offer Tasmanian growers, the following were the key areas that could be looked at:

- Precision Agriculture (GPS use on a smaller scale)
- On-farm storage (options available to farmers)
- Developments on segregating feed grain (having two types, feed 1 and feed 2)
- Weed control – problem weeds include ryegrass and silver grass
- Nutrient Application Management – using liquid applications; timing of use, rates, logistics of handling and cost effectiveness on a smaller scale

8. Next Meeting Date

Yet to be determined – GRDC said it would be good to tie meetings in with another event.

Carolyn Pearson will be the GRDC rep attending meetings and contact for any future questions.

Meeting closed at 12.35pm