

IREC Cropping Systems Sub Committee Report 2007

The Cropping Systems sub committee has met three times this year, and a changing venue has seen an increase in participation. Meetings are now held in conjunction with a field trip examining topics of interest. The first meeting in February was hosted by Bruce Gowrie Smith and examined innovative land forming to control water infiltration, maize, lucerne seed, prunes and wheat stubble management followed by the meeting at Darlington Point. The May meeting was held on the premises of Riverina Grain who supply Rockdale Feedlot and others. The manager Craig Willis gave an excellent overview from the grain market perspective which coincided with the completion of the Irrigated Grain Scoping Study. The third meeting held prior to the GRDC Update was to be at Bartter Enterprises, but had to revert back to IREC premises as quarantine was an issue. The guest presenter was John Gale from Bartter Enterprises.

The committee again hosted an excellent GRDC Irrigation update at Griffith in August. A large gathering attended both days and papers presented are still available on the IREC website. It was a big two days with concurrent sessions running on a number of relevant topics. A diverse range of quality speaker's travelled large distances to participate and a copy of the papers they presented are available on the IREC website. Farmer feedback on the day continues to place the development of irrigation focussed varieties at the top of the wish list. With this in mind we are happy to see the commencement of the new wheat/barley/triticale breeding program which is specifically aimed at irrigation.

We congratulate Mathew Stott on being awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship this year. Mathew will study deep sub surface drip irrigation on heavy soils when he travels next year and join a world network of leading edge farmers.

I would like to thank the Australian Ricegrowers' Association for providing the secretary services to the committee and IREC staff for the mail outs and organisation of the GRDC Update.

Peter Draper
Chairman