

IREC Cropping Systems Sub-Committee Report

IREC Annual General Meeting – 2008

The Cropping Systems Sub-Committee met earlier this year, prior to the GRDC Cropping Update, to discuss what should be presented at the Update.

A list of suggested topics was presented and prioritised, and new subjects were added to the list. Committee members were able to suggest potential speakers which the Update organiser then recruited to speak at the event.

The resulting program presented at the GRDC Update in August included many of the suggestions from the Cropping Systems Sub-Committee and was an interesting and relevant mix of topics.

The one-day workshop attracted around 85 people and offered both plenary sessions and breakout session with a choice of topics that people could elect to hear about.

John Peters from the Commonwealth Bank gave a thorough outline of Global Economic and Market Trends, Brett Stevenson of MarketCheck provided an insight into grain marketing and Bruce Simpson of Peppin Business and Financial Planners spoke about ways to reduce risk in farming operations.

Other topics included biotechnologies, climate change, irrigated barley, reducing input costs, fast watering and a very popular and interesting session on industrial hemp, currently being grown in the Riverina and other areas.

Copies of the program including some of the presentations are available from the IREC office.

As usual, the IREC staff played a huge part in making the GRDC Update happen and I thank them for their time and expertise in making it a successful day.

With a reduced staff at the Ricegrowers' Association, they are no longer able to provide the secretariat services to this committee. Our Executive Officer has taken on this role.

It is hoped this committee will again be able to contribute to the development of the GRDC Update next year, and may continue to meet to discuss other matters or plan events as needed.

Peter Draper
Chairman