



Chairman's foreword

Welcome to the Rice R&D edition of the IREC *Farmers' Newsletter*.

I'd like to start by thanking our recently retired Rice R&D Committee Chairman, Daryl Gibbs, for his dedicated and learned leadership over the past five years. Daryl was a member of the Rice R&D Committee for 12 years, he also served on RGA Central Executive, representing RGA on many other committees and organisations. Daryl has many skills but foremost are his people skills – his ability to connect and communicate with all. From everyone involved in Rice R&D, we thank him for his contribution and we wish him well in his new role with the Murrumbidgee CMA.

Unfortunately, a change in chairman hasn't seen any change in the prevailing weather pattern. The lingering drought is putting stress on the rice industry at all levels: you the producers, your families and communities, our processor SunRice and its people, RGA, our Rice R&D programs, and the research community.

The R&D committee has continued to deal with reducing budgets while maintaining focus on core projects and people. We currently have a submission before the

Australian Government as part of its recent announcement of 10 million dollars to support rural R&D programs. The RGA, in conjunction with RIRDC, led the effort to access funds to support the rice research program and we are grateful that the Government agreed to provide funding assistance. This funding will not restore our research program to its normal level of expenditure and output, but it should ensure the retention of our core activities over the next two years at least. This is important, as it is clear that the benefits of R&D will be even more crucial for a timely recovery once the drought does break.

I am sure you will find the projects presented in this edition interesting and useful and I hope that we will all get an opportunity to implement their findings on farm or at an industry level, sooner rather than later. 🌱

Ian Mason
Chairman RIRDC Rice Research and Development Committee

