



22nd March, 2018

The COGGO Piper Prize for Innovation Awarded to a Precision Agriculture Company to Improve Canola Yield in WA

GROUND BREAKER Precision Agriculture have been awarded the prestigious Piper Prize for Innovation, a \$75,000 prize granted by the Council of Grain Grower Organisations Ltd (COGGO) for their unique precision tyne planter.

GROUND BREAKER CEO, Mr Andrew Farquharson said "the planter uses a patented row unit rather than a traditional double disc opener that you see on most seeding bars and uses the world's leading precision technology."

The Precision Planting System was originally designed for planting summer grain crops in Queensland and after extensive research has been modified to solve the growing issues associated with planting Canola in Western Australia, which is WA's most popular break crop.

"We are going to use the prize money for further research and development during this year's winter plant starting in April, on location at Bungulla Farming, WA. We will be trialling *Precision Planting*, *Ag Leader* and *Monosem* precision technology and recording data throughout the season."

"We hope to increase engagement with farmers on the benefits of using the GROUND BREAKER planter and learn more about the market. The trials and research will support the development of a commercial machine for release in early 2019," he said.

The inaugural \$75,000 Piper Prize for innovation in agriculture was presented to the winners, Ground Breaker Precision Agriculture, for their unique precision tyne planting system. After receiving the \$25,000 Piper Award for innovation in 2016, to allow them to further develop their innovation they went on to win the \$75,000 PIPER PRIZE to assist in the development and commercialisation of their planter for the benefit of Western Australian grain growers.

COGGO Chair, Mr Rhys Turton said "We awarded the prize to GROUND BREAKER Precision Agriculture so that they can further develop the planter to improve the efficiency of sowing grain crops, with the initial focus on canola due to the high cost of hybrid seed."

"By using the planter, we would expect the seeding rate and planting costs of canola in WA to be significantly reduced, by as much as 50% by using this technology. This could allow for a rapid uptake of the latest and best varieties of canola, while reducing the risk in the farming system", he said.

"Another advantage of using the GROUND BREAKER precision planter is that the seed is more evenly spaced, giving each plant the opportunity to successfully establish and grow without competing with other seeds, increasing individual plant performance and survival," Mr Turton said.

COGGO awarded the Piper Prize for Innovation to promote and reward agribusiness innovators and entrepreneurs whose ideas have the potential to improve performance and accelerate growth within the WA Grains Industry.

For more information on the Piper Prize for Innovation, please visit <http://www.coggo.net.au/>.

For more information on the precision planting system, please contact GROUND BREAKER Precision Agriculture on (07) 4634 5150 or visit www.groundbreaker.com.au.

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Media Contact:

Hugh Lennerts, COGGO, 0416 211 040