

PROGRAM DAY 1 – 16 FEBRUARY

8.00 am REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

8.45 am **PLENARY SESSION 1**

8.45 am **Welcome** – Peter Bird, Senior Regional Manager West, GRDC
Future directions for GRDC investments – Sharon Starick, GRDC Chair

9.10 am **GRDC award presentations** – Gary Lang, Chair GRDC Western Panel

9.25 am **What grain markets want; and how Australia delivers** Richard Simonaitis, Grains Australia

10.05 am **Looking forward, looking back – 30-year anniversary panel**

10.50 am **MORNING TEA**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11.30 am	SESSION 1 Soil Amelioration	SESSION 2 Legumes and Pulses	SESSION 3 Management Practices	SESSION 4 Disease
	Trick and tips for reengineering soils across different environments Gaus Azam, DPIRD	What is stopping us from growing more pulse crops and the influence of geopolitics on marketing pulses from WA Kadambot Siddique, UWA	Improved management of herbicide residues in soil Gavan McGrath, Ishka Solutions NR - Fixing nitrogen while dodging herbicide residues Riley Drage, Murdoch	CCDM in the spotlight Chair – Mark Gibberd NR - Uncovering genetic resistance to Spot Form Net Blotch in barley Sundara Link NR - The gene <i>Cyc8</i> is essential for the development and pathogenicity of the necrotrophic fungus, <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> Thomas Hill NR - Multi-species pangenomics provides insight to virulence and fungicide resistance Naomi Gray NR - The involvement of protein kinases in wheat disease susceptibility - a case study of <i>Septoria nodorum</i> blotch (SNB) Asiri Padukka Vidanalage
12.05 pm	5-minute moving			
12.10 pm	Setting up for success- Reaching and sustaining yield potentials in ameliorated sands Therese McBeath, NSW DPIRD	Legume D&E in WA Daniel Kidd NR - The barriers and opportunities for canola-legume intercropping in WA Chloe Rout, UWA	Australian grain growers' perceptions of the definition of regeneration agriculture, changing agricultural practices and indicators to support farm practices. Jacqueline Williams, Southern Cross Uni	The Australian Fungicide Resistance Extension Network: promoting effective fungicide resistance management in Australian grains. Nola D'Souza, CCDM
12.45 pm	LUNCH			

*NR – indicates New Researcher presentation

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

2026

1.40 pm	SESSION 5 Soils Progress on soil water repellency David Henry, Murdoch	SESSION 6 The future of canola GRDCs Low Carbon Liquid Fuels Feedstock Roadmap Cameron Begley, Spiegare	SESSION 7 Rotations Development of a Soil Health Framework for Australian agricultural production systems Mark Farrell, CSIRO	SESSION 8 The future of Agriculture What can grains learn from other industries about the adoption of digital technology Roger Lawes, CSIRO
2.10 pm	5-minute moving			
2.15 pm	Gravel mulch improves cereal yield and water use efficiency on alkaline sodic soils in the eastern wheatbelt of WA Glen Reithmuller, DPIRD	Understand canola rotations and blackleg genetics Steve Marcroft	Species by TOS trials evaluates performance of major crops in WA Stephanie Boyce, DPIRD	Nanoscale solutions to a really big problem: a nanoparticle-based approach to fighting fungal pathogens Liz Czislowski, CCMD
2.45 pm	5-minute moving			
2.50 pm	NR - Amelioration of aluminium toxicity in wheat using silicon Suma Karki, UWA Amendments for sandy soils Richard Bell, Murdoch Uni	Understanding the driving factors leading to fungicide resistance in the blackleg pathogen of canola Angela Van de Wouw, Uni of Melbourne	WA Farming Systems Trials: Rotation by nitrogen responses Martin Harries, DPIRD NR - Cross trial analysis of rotation by environment interaction in the WA Farming Systems project Ben Nestor, DPIRD	Smart Sprays Chair – Daniel Murphy, Murdoch NR - SMART SPRAYS: Developing biodegradable films for broadacre cropping Alexandra Gulizia NR - How mulching practices shape soil chemical and biological processes Samantha Viljoen NR - Advanced water barrier spray for soil application in grain production Annachiara Codello NR - SMART SPRAY - Adhesive spray for frost protection Hussain Alattas
3.25 pm	AFTERNOON TEA			
4.00 pm	SESSION 9 Nutrition Predicting nitrogen cycling and losses in Australian cropping systems - augmenting measurements to enhance modelling Graeme Schwenke, DPIRD NSW	SESSION 10 Abiotic Stressors Frost and Heat Management and Analytics (FAHMA) Randall Donohue, CSIRO	SESSION 11 Management decisions Influence of soil amelioration and amendment practices on <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> AG8 in Western Australian cropping systems Ahmed Saad, DPIRD	SESSION 12 Sustainability Introducing GRDC's Sustainability Initiatives Mark Callow, GRDC
4.30 pm	5-minute moving,			
4.35 pm	Scaling precision agriculture: How hyperspectral satellites unlock dynamic nitrogen management for Australian wheat farms George Marangos, Messium	Management of ice nucleation bacteria to mitigate frost Amanuel Bekuma, DPIRD	Soil testing to predict crop response to management practices used on alkaline-sodic-saline soils of the eastern wheat-belt Geoff Anderson, DPIRD	A review of grain emissions and gross margins across rainfall zones: Practical insights for 2026 Christophe d'Abbadie, DPIRD
5.05 pm	NETWORKING SUNDOWNER			

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PROGRAM DAY 2 – 17 FEBRUARY

8.30 am WELCOME COFFEE

9.00 am Welcome Back – Peter Bird, GRDC

9.15 am **PLENARY SESSION 2**

N fertiliser decisions – the good, the right and the risky, James Hunt University, of Melbourne

10.00 am 10-minute moving

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10.10 am	SESSION 13 Nutrition Residual fertiliser nitrogen – Will this year's cereal crop use it? Louise Barton, UWA	SESSION 14 Wheat agronomy Wheat, frost and terminal drought Dion Nicol, DPIRD	SESSION 15 Pest Management Efficacy loss of neonicotinoid seed treatments on green peach aphids Lilia Jenkins, Cesar Australia	SESSION 16 Weed Management Weed control in a “post paraquat” world: How to make glufosinate work against key Australian weeds Roberto Busi, DPIRD
10.40 am	5-minute moving			
10.45 am	Advancing nitrogen-use-efficiency in the Geraldton Port Zone in high-fertility environments Nick Eyres, GSA Consulting	Managing pre-harvest sprouting in wheat: From physiology to agronomy. Jeremy Curry, DPIRD	Predators and Beneficial Insects Chair – Helen Spafford NR - Training ladybird beetles to improve biological control in canola Ali Zahid, Murdoch NR - Modifying natural enemies' behaviour for better biological control in field Jhon Avellaneda Nieto, Murdoch NR - Managing Russian Wheat Aphid: Predatory potential of native ladybirds Chloe Elsegood, Murdoch NR - When could less spray mean more pay? Monitoring beneficial parasitoid wasps working to benefit your farm Amber Balfour-Cunningham, UWA and DPIRD	Demonstrating effective management of Matricaria species in the low and medium rainfall zones of Western Australia. TBC
11.15 am	MORNING TEA			

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GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

2026

11.45 am	SESSION 17 Nutrition NR - Improving early-sown legume nodulation by establishing rhizobial inoculant in the prior year Jake Taylor, Murdoch Uni Nitrogen contributions from harvestable annual legumes: Implications for WA farming systems Robert Harrison, DPIRD and Murdoch	SESSION 18 Crop Management Understanding how fungicides move inside plants Jordi Muria-Gonzalez, CCDM	SESSION 19 Pest Management Slug and snail management TBC NR - Role of dietary calcium on the growth of grain pest snails Muhammad Zubair, Murdoch	SESSION 20 Weed Management Fleabane is getting worse - but here's what to do about it Harmohinder Dhammu, DPIRD
12.20 pm	5-minute moving			
12.25 pm	NR - <i>Austroboletus occidentalis</i>: A generalist biofertiliser for crops and pastures. Yasodhini Liyanage, UWA 30 years of soil testing and plant nutrition Craig Scanlan, DPIRD	Managing grass weeds in oats for grain Garren Knell, ConsultAg	Pre-conditioning generalist predators: a novel approach for precision pest management Shovon Sarkar, Murdoch NR - Investigation of wheat resistance mechanisms to the Russian Wheat Aphid (<i>Diuraphis noxia</i>) Ayesha Warnasooriya, Murdoch	Herbicide programs for button grass suppression in summer fallows Arslan Peerzada, DPIRD
1.00 pm	LUNCH			
1.50 pm	FOCUS SESSION 1 USING BIOLOGICALS Convenor David Bowran Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	FOCUS SESSION 2 THE FUTURE OF LEGUMES IN WA Convenor Ruth Young Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	FOCUS SESSION 3 EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING Convenor GGA Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC 	FOCUS SESSION 4 FINDING WHEAT'S SWEET SPOT YIELD VS QUALITY VS PRICE VS RISK Convenor Richard Williams Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC
3.25 pm	15-minute moving			
3.25 pm	PLENARY SESSION 3 Social license – talking positively about agriculture Pip Courtney			
4.10 pm	GRDC closing comments Peter Bird, GRDC			
4.15 pm	SPONSORS AND SPEAKERS' SUNDOWNER – All attendees welcome			

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