

## 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**

Chair – Pip Courtney

Panel members

- Geoff Fosbery
- Juliet McDonald
- Mark Sweetingham
- Nicole Kerr

10.50 am MORNING TEA

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11.30 am

#### SESSION 1

##### Soil Amelioration

Trick and tips for reengineering soils across different environments

Gaus Azam, DPIRD

#### SESSION 2

##### Legumes and Pulses

What is stopping us from growing more pulse crops and the influence of geopolitics on marketing pulses from WA

Kadambot Siddique, UWA

#### SESSION 3

##### Management Practices

Improved management of herbicide residues in soil

Gavan McGrath, Ishka Solutions

NR - Fixing nitrogen while dodging herbicide residues  
Riley Drage, Murdoch

#### SESSION 4

##### Disease

CCDM in the spotlight

Chair – Mark Gibberd

NR - Uncovering genetic resistance to Spot Form Net Blotch in barley

Sundara Link

NR - The gene *Cyc8* is essential for the development and pathogenicity of the necrotrophic fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*

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 *Septoria nodorum* blotch (SNB)

Asiri Padukka Vidanaloge

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, GGA

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

\*NR – indicates New Researcher presentation

## PROGRAM DAY 2 – 17 FEBRUARY

8.30 am WELCOME COFFEE

9.00 am Welcome Back – Peter Bird, GRDC

9.15 am **PLENARY SESSION 2**

**Nitrogen 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**

**Yield and protein determination in wheat: Lessons from cultivar selection and nitrogen management from Kansas, US**  
Romulo Lollato, Kansas State University

**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.**  
Erin Schilling, Living Farm

11.15 am

**MORNING TEA**

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# GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

# 2026

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

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