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CRC adoption gets onto the path to Industry Use



Earlier this month, the FFI CRC Adoption Team (shown above) met in Melbourne to discuss how the CRC's farming-system research projects *EverGraze*, *EverCrop* and *Woody Crops* together with the supporting technologies of *Enrich* and the *Saltland Systems* projects can achieve 'Industry Use' outcomes.

Coordinated by QualDATA's Gordon Stone, the two-day meeting focused on constructing a logical framework (log frame) for each farming system and supporting technology based on their overall objectives and targeted outputs. Once the log frames are in place, Industry Use plans will be developed for each FFI CRC project, highlighting how adoption or commercialisation activities will take place.

FFI CRC Agribusiness Director, Scott Glyde, said

Researchers search the wetlands of southern Spain for new salt-tolerant rhizobia



Phil Nichols and Amanda Bonython collecting *Melilotus siculus* rhizobia in the Doñana National Park, Spain

Phil Nichols (DAFWA) and Amanda Bonython (SARDI) have recently returned from a rewarding trip to the Iberian Peninsula where they scoured the saline marshes and wetlands of southern Spain for *Melilotus* and *Medicago* legume species to get samples of the rhizobia bacteria that live in the plants' root nodules, as well as plant seeds.

"We collected rhizobia and seed from *Melilotus siculus* at nine sites and *Medicago polymorpha* rhizobia from three sites, including sites located in the picturesque Pego-Oliva wetland in the Gulf of Valencia and the Doñana National Park in Andalusia," Dr Nichols said.

"The soil and root samples have been brought back to Australia with half of them going to Murdoch University and the remainder to SARDI where the rhizobia will be isolated and cultured. Seeds of legumes collected have been split between DAFWA and SARDI."

Hopefully some of the rhizobia collected on this expedition will be more salt-tolerant than those currently available and lead to the development of *Melilotus siculus* as a new commercial annual legume for saline, waterlogged areas.

The trip has continued to forge new links with Spanish organisations engaged in similar research activities as

the meeting provided the State Adoption Managers with an opportunity to have a pragmatic review of adoption and/or commercialisation across all projects.

“All FFI CRC projects contain adoption and/or commercialisation milestones, so it was useful for us to consider the roles that extension, commercialisation activities and corporate communications are likely to play in enabling the CRC to achieve these goals,” Scott said.

“An important part of this process was making sure the policies and strategies underpinning these areas were in alignment with the new approach to adoption.”

The creation of milestones on the pathway to ‘Industry Use’ for the larger farm-systems based technologies was an important focus of the meeting. These milestones will be incorporated into QualDATA’s monitoring and evaluation contract with FFI CRC. The aim is to create a simple, easy to use system so everyone can see how the R&D outputs become CRC outcomes – products and services that FFI CRC can be proud of.

“Having measures in place that are calculated on a regular basis will assist project leaders, researchers and adoption managers stay on track to deliver industry-ready research outputs.”

Based on the discussions at this meeting, the State Adoption Managers – with assistance from QualDATA’s Gordon Stone and Jeff Coutts – will now work with the project and program teams to create a simple, clear and logical adoption framework that consists of measurable delivery milestones and processes by the end of September.

The complete functional logical framework and system will be finalised and presented to the CRC Board early next year to coincide with work leading up to the Third Year Review.



Libyan exchange visit shows interest in CRC’s drought tolerance research

the CRC, with their staff providing guidance on likely sites for sample collection.

“The trip would not have been possible without the valuable assistance from staff at several Spanish organisations including the Murcian Institute of Agriculture (IMIDA) and Alicante University,” Dr Nichols said.



EverGraze® a winner at grasslands conference stands



EverGraze Researcher, Jim Meckiff, with his award for Best Poster

EverGraze made its presence known at the recently held 50th Grasslands Society’s Annual Conference in Geelong with EverGraze Research Leader, Angela Avery, and the EverGraze National Advisory Committee Chair, Chris Mirams, delivering well-received papers.

EverGraze also took out the Best Trade Site and Best Poster (on Split Joining) with Chris Mirams winning the Best Paper Award.

This focus on the quality work being done by the project has seen its website experience a 24% increase in traffic (a total of 190 unique visitors) in just one week.

The Grassland Society of Southern Australia Inc is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1959 to encourage the transfer of information and technology relating to grassland farming in southern Australia.

EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC, MLA and AWI research and delivery partnership.



Comings and goings

Wagga Board Meeting

On 7 September, the Board of Directors will meet in Wagga Wagga, followed by a full calendar of activities visiting FFI CRC people and projects that are active in the region. So if you are in the area, put Monday



The Libyan visitors learn more about Australian drought tolerant legumes at a DAFWA research station near Merredin, Western Australia

Twelve scientists, extension practitioners and farmers from Libya have spent two and a half weeks in Western Australia looking at developments in science and practice for rangelands and low-rainfall arable agriculture including some of the CRC's drought tolerance work.

Of particular interest was the CRC's *Drought Tolerant Perennial Legumes* project where they visited a field site at Merredin Research Station in the low-rainfall wheatbelt. The group also went to Breeder's Nursery at Medina Research Station near Perth to meet one of our leading plant breeders, Dr Daniel Real. While at Medina, they also had the chance to meet Kevin Foster, a FFI CRC PHD student investigating the drought-tolerant physiology of the target legume species they saw at Merredin.

The Libyan group is in Australia as part of relationship building activities associated with a Libyan Rangeland Development Project supported by AGWEST International. CRC Research Director Dr Mike Ewing has played an important role in building these relationships. The visitors have expressed interest in linking into our *Drought Tolerant Perennial Legumes* project and testing some of the promising material in the stressful Mediterranean climate of Libya.



INFFER wins a Eureka Science Award

Congratulations to the INFFER Project for winning the 2009 *Excellence in Research by an Interdisciplinary Team* Eureka Science Award.

The award recognises the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFFER) Team's hard work in integrating biophysical, economic and social research to help governments and researchers make better decisions when investing in threatened environmental assets, often with limited funds and under community pressure.

The growing application of this tool by regional and

7 September in the diary for the networking function at the Charles Stuart University Convention Centre. On Tuesday and Wednesday, there will be presentations to the Board on the *EverCrop* and *EverTrain* projects, as well as postgrad student presentations and an executive meeting.

Team investigates collaboration possibility

Scott Glyde (CSU) is heading up a consultancy team that includes Graeme Sandral (DPI NSW), Kate Sergeant (DPI Vic) and Jason Emms (SARDI) to scope the planned collaboration between Grain & Graze II (funded by GRDC, Caring for Our Country and possibly MLA) and the FFI CRC farming systems *EverCrop*®, *Enrich* and *EverGraze*® and other FFI CRC initiatives including those associated with adoption and economic analysis.

They will consult with farming systems groups across eight regions regarding the best plans for research application under the theme of biomass production and report back in January 2010.

CRC represented at international conference

Dr Michael Robertson and Dr Roger Lawes, both from CSIRO, are attending an international conference on farming systems modelling. While there, they will report in part on work conducted as part of FFI CRC initiatives.

New arrival at Head Office

We welcome Mildred Wong to FFI CRC's Head Office team and farewell Christina Sanderson. Mildred joined the CRC as our accountant a month ago, and will take over all financial administration responsibilities.

Christina has resigned from her Finance and Operations Manager position to pursue other opportunities.

Baby on board

We congratulate Julia Wilson who is expecting her first child in early 2010. Julia will be taking 12 months parental leave from the end of the year.

Pollock retires

After a stellar career piloting Greg Madson half way around the world Pollock will officially retire on 9 September. This is a huge event in both their lives.

Greg will take six weeks leave after which he will begin training up his new guide dog. Pollock will stay in Greg's care.



catchment bodies Australia-wide and its acceptance by governments for directing their investments has made INFFER a success story.

The INFFER Team consists of Prof David Pannell and Sally Marsh (both from the UWA Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy), Dr Anna Roberts and Jennifer Alexander (both from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries) and Geoff Park from the North Central Catchment Authority, Victoria. INFFER also has the backing of its joint venture partners which are the Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities Fund and FFI CRC.

The Australian Museum Eureka Awards are Australia's prestigious annual award for excellence in science which celebrated its 20th anniversary at the awards ceremony in Sydney on 18 August.

To find out more about the INFFER project, visit: www.inffer.org.



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Coming Events

Agricultural Technologies in a Changing Climate - 2009 CIGR International Symposium of the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture

13-16 September 2009, Brisbane, Qld

Email: seag2009@icmsaust.com.au

Further information: www.seag2009.com

2009 Australian Meat Industry Council Conference

24-25 September 2009, TBA

Email: admin@amicprocessors.org.au

WA State NRM Conference

27-30 October 2009, Geraldton, WA

Email: ctc@nacc.com.au

Yorke Peninsula Field Days

29 September to October 1 2009, Paskeville, SA

Email: ypfd@netyp.com.au

Further information: www.ypfielddays.com.au

OECD-GenomeAssociation-OZ09

9-12 November 2009, The University of Western Australia, Perth, WA

Further information: www.oecd-genomeassociation-oz09.com

4th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and Non-GM Based Agricultural Supply Chains

11-12 November 2009, Melbourne, Vic

Further information: www.gmcc-09.com

2009 APEN Conference

11-13 November 2009, Busselton, WA

Further information: www.apen.org.au

Agricultural Outlook Australia 2009

24-25 November 2009, Sydney, NSW

Email: stephanie.catto@terrapinn.com

Further information: www.terrapinn.com/2009/ago

Outlook 2010 (ABARE)

2-3 March 2010, Canberra, ACT

Further information: mfinnegan@abare.gov.au

Australia's National Water Conference and Exhibition

8-10 March 2010, Brisbane, Qld

Email: ozwater@awa.asn.au

Further information: www.ozwater10.com.au

WANTFA Annual Conference

10 March 2010, TBA

Email: <mailto:kaye@wantfa.com.au>

Further information: www.wantfa.com.au

Australian Summer Grains Conference 2010

12-15 July 2010, Gold Coast, Qld

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