

Media Release



FUTURE FARM
INDUSTRIES CRC
PROFITABLE PERENNIALS™ FOR AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES

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Investors urged to consider new acid and waterlogging tolerant pastures at Field Day

The search is on for a seed company to commercialise new plant varieties with the potential to boost production on acidic and waterlogged land in southern Australia.

The Future Farm Industries CRC is inviting interest from seed companies to commercialise four new birdsfoot trefoil varieties (*Lotus corniculatus*) and a cultivar of the Australian native *Lotus australis*.

Potentially interested parties are encouraged to attend a Field Day at the WA Department of Agriculture and Food's (DAFWA) Medina Research Station on 27 November to find out more about these promising plants and consider possible involvement in their commercialisation.

FFI CRC Researcher Dr Graeme Sandral of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) said his work with DAFWA senior plant breeder Dr Daniel Real had bred new birdsfoot trefoil cultivars with an extended range well beyond the boundaries set by current varieties.

"These new varieties come with the expectation of being highly productive and hardy when grown in mediterranean climates with acidic or low-fertility soils in areas receiving 600-1000mm per annum of rainfall," Dr Sandral said.

"The varieties also perform particularly well in areas with significant winter waterlogging.

"Sale of these cultivars to farmers could transform areas of land previously thought as being too dry for white clover and too acid or waterlogged for lucerne."

Dr Sandral said the plants on display at Medina had been sown to provide seed for the next stage of cultivar testing.

"The field day will help seed companies become more familiar with these varieties and their unique attributes while assessing their suitability as commercial seed product."

Dr Sandral and Dr Real will be attending the Field Day to answer any questions.

It is the intention of Future Farm Industries CRC and its partners NSW DPI, DAFWA, Australia Wool Innovation, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and the Uruguayan institution INIA (National Institute of Agricultural Research), to commercialise these varieties by licensing a private sector partner.

Medina Field Station is located near the corner of Abercrombie Road and Anketell Road Medina, off the Kwinana Freeway south of Perth, Western Australia.

The Field Day starts at 10.30am. To register your interest in attending, please email FFI CRC Executive Assistant, Sarah Colombera (sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au), or telephoning (08) 6488 1952 before 20 November.

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Further information: www.futurefarmcrc.com.au Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre aims to transform Australian agriculture and rural landscapes by developing and applying Profitable Perennials™ technologies to innovative farming systems and new regional industries.
