



Southern DIRT



SOUTHERN DIRT TECHSPO 2017



TECHSPO 2017

DIRT, DATA, DROIDS

12th to 14th September 2017

ABOUT TECHSPO

Southern Dirt Techspo aims to be Australia's premier **technology and innovation** event for the Agricultural community and associated industries. We are bringing technology developers, farmers, advisors, expert researchers and officials together for two days of advanced agriculture technology, information sharing and collaboration with an optional study tour for those who want to experience more.

This event format is based on Cereals Event in the UK which is one of the premier world cropping technology, working farm demonstration events. We aim to take this experiential learning and demonstration concept for broadacre farming and broaden it to include: livestock, genetics, horticulture, aquaculture, robotics and data innovation making it a world class event in the world of agriculture.

TECHSPO is unique in Australia in offering working demonstration areas that allow participants to learn experientially which has long been acknowledged in agriculture as a primary extension tool. A 14-hectare site, working farm, adjacent to the Katanning Recreation Centre will be partially trial cropped in early 2017 with a variety of new species and plots for demonstrating sprays, seeders, droids and other technologies which enables us to attract a variety of innovative manufacturers that can demonstrate future farming techniques.

From genetics through to research techniques, sensor and other equipment advancements this is an event with a difference. During the year we will take drone footage to demonstrate the progression of the trials and virtual field walks will be available to people across Australia and the world. The event will demonstrate areas that are critical for farming in this state: Livestock technologies for sheep, cattle, and other animals, aquaculture; broadacre; horticulture; data and genetics.

This is not just another field day like Dowerin or Newdegate which are more family fun events and large equipment purchase venues – it is the future of farming and the

creation of prosperous, sustainable agricultural communities that are a core need for this region.

An agricultural technology conference will be held in the same venue with experts brought in from around the country to share their knowledge and provide inspiration and forums that address technological advancements in agriculture. We also plan to have an area that addresses farmer health through a showcase that includes diagnostic advancement techniques that save lives and improve regional health.

To add to the excitement, we will hold a number of networking activities, a Gala Ball and optional tours of the Great Southern Region for interstate and international visitors. This will be a must- attend event for anyone interested in learning and/or developing new tech solutions for Agriculture. Many of these solutions are focused on the challenges of sustainability, traceability and increased crop and livestock outputs. We offer the opportunity for farmers to spend the time connecting with the researchers and developers who are creating these actual innovations and add their voice to what is being produced.

WHO ARE WE TARGETING?

Farmers; Researchers; Technology Companies; Agri-tech Inventors; Agribusiness Investors; Industry Specialists; Other Grower Groups; Associated suppliers to the sector

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

2000 for the exhibition and 250 for the conference

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Techspo aims to:

- Increase interest and uptake of good farming technologies that will create more sustainable agricultural enterprises
- Increase interest of researchers and inventors in connecting with farmers and farming communities to create better technologies
- Enable farmers to share experiences in the use of these new on-farm technologies
- Develop an agricultural technology hub for WA that attracts farmers, industry and researchers from throughout the world as a place of interest for innovation technologies and solutions

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The theme for the event will be Data, Dirt and Droids which encompasses new engineering and mechanical technologies, Internet of things and all things Data as well as new innovations in soil preservation, seed varieties and plant genetics.

Exhibitions and Conference topics will include:

1. Precision AG – Cropping, Remote Sensing
2. Genetics, plant breeding
3. Robotics and Automation
4. Livestock Technology – EID, Genetics, genomics, Remote Monitoring, Livestock Management Integration (Sapien Technology)
5. Big Data - Internet of Things, Sensor Technology, Communications – apps and Platforms, QR Codes, Protocols – Wireless RFID
6. Followed by Study Tour – 3 Day escorted Tour of the local area with invitations to go out to grower groups Australia Wide

EVENT CATALYST

There are approximately 135,997 farm businesses in Australia as of 2015, 99 percent of which are family owned and operated. Each Australian farmer produces enough food to feed 600 people, 150 at home and 450 overseas. Australian farmers produce almost 93 percent of Australia's daily domestic food supply.

The adoption of technologies, genetics and innovations that increase efficiencies in production and advances in biosecurity are key to protecting this industry. Diversification strategies that include other farm outputs such as premium super foods are needed to create the industries of the future. Land and water efficiencies and sustainable ag techniques with origin traceability will also be crucial to future prosperity (Source: National Farmers Federation and multiple papers from researchers around the country).

GROWER GROUP INVOLVEMENT

We would like to invite Grower Groups to attend the event. If you would like to use this as a study tour for your members Southern Dirt will help to organising billeting etc.. If you have innovations or technologies you would like to promote please contact us about exhibiting costs. We can also put you on the speakers roster and connect you up with other farmers in the region.