



**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

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## RECENT activities

### INTRO TO AGRONOMY COURSE 75% OFF

TEN delegates have already taken up the offer of a discounted Introduction to Agronomy course with Planfarm Academy, to support staff to fill gaps in technical agronomy knowledge.

Planfarm has offered the GGA network a generous discount and GGA is offering a further rebate for up to 20 groups which together reduces the course cost by 75%.

The course involves 12 modules and 3 hours of online content with access to live online tutorials.

More details on the scheme can be found under the capacity building tab via [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

### MEMBERSHIP STRATEGY WEBINAR – FEBRUARY 1 AND 8

FEATURING membership expert Belinda Moore, GGA delivered two webinars in February to help groups review their membership approach. The first, was held on February 1, covered membership strategy considerations, trends and tips. The second, on February 8, covered a membership model audit and a member values framework. CBH provided sponsorship for the series so the webinars were free to attend and open to the wider not-for-profit community as well as the GGA Network. All GGA members and delegates registered will receive access to the recordings soon.

### GRAINS PODCAST: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GROWING A CHICKPEA CROP

IN our latest podcast, DPIRD senior research scientist, Mark Seymour, explains the work he's doing with chickpea crops. If you've been considering growing chickpeas, Mark offers some expert advice on soil types, and treating the seed with fungicide and weed control. Find the podcast under Resources at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)



### PROCESSWORX HR & SAFETY LAWS PACKAGES FOR GROUPS

GGA has released exclusive support package offers from ProcessWorx for its 43 Grower Group members.

The first is an HR Health Check Package, subsidised by GGA at \$250+GST. The second relates to the new Safety Laws and is an extensive support package discounted by 75%.

Watch the recording of the HR Safety Laws info session from ProcessWorx via the GGA Video Library.

### 'LIFT OFF' TRAINING RETREAT

THIS February GGA launched a new two-day training retreat for GGA Network members. Planned as a face to face event the program moved online due to COVID-19 escalating and ran on February 1 and 2 with six well-attended training sessions. Content covered membership strategy, media releases, Airtable, e-newsletters, R&D Trials and an Intro to Agronomy tutorial. Recordings of the sessions will be available by the end of February to GGA Members and delegates who attended.

## UPCOMING activities

### PARTNERING FOR GROWTH COURSES MARCH 15 AND JULY 1

PLACES are filling in two Partnerships training courses recently launched to the GGA network with a subsidy of \$600 per person.

The courses provide a step-by-step pathway to developing key business relationships to grow a commercial enterprise or grower group.

Both options are delivered online over a five-week period and require a commitment of about 25 hours.

The first course begins on March 15 and is geared to producers keen to value-add and learn about commercial partnerships.

The second intake for July 1 is more for pure grower group partnerships such as with funders, sponsors and other groups. More details on the courses under the capacity building tab via [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

### UPCOMING GOVERNANCE TRAINING – APRIL 29 AND MAY 30

BACK by popular demand, GGA has a governance training e-course starting on April 29 and a one day workshop planned for May 30.

Both courses are ideal for new or experienced committee members or executive officers of not-for-profit groups.

There are places for 70 delegates for the e-course comprising six easy-paced topic modules over three months – about 12 hours study in total.

The one day workshop caters for 25 delegates. Sponsored by the CBH Group both training options are free and open to all community groups not just agriculture groups.

More details on the program under the capacity building tab via [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)



### RDE&A PLAN – 75% SUBSIDY OFFER

GGA is offering up to eight groups a 75% subsidy on developing a Research, Development, Extension and Adoption plan in 2022. GGA has partnered with Agknowledge for a comprehensive process that helps groups develop a plan based on member priorities.

More details on the program under the capacity building tab via [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

### EXPANDED HUB WILL DRIVE INNOVATION AND ADOPTION

THE capacity of the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) to drive local innovation and adoption has been boosted following two recent announcements.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud recently reaffirmed his commitment to providing additional funding to Australia's eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs – to expand beyond their drought remit and drive innovation.

The \$20 million in additional funding will enable the hubs to undertake broader agricultural innovation activities, which will lead to uptake of innovation by producers, stimulate collaboration and increase commercialisation.

In a separate statement, Minister Littleproud announced a Regional Soil Co-ordinator would be

based at each of the nation's eight hubs, and that the \$3 million initiative would provide down-to-earth support to farmers. Meanwhile, the SW WA Hub has received a good response to its call for expressions of

interest (EOI) for Regional Node Lead roles and Regional Advisory Committee member positions.

These appointments will help ensure that Hub activities are targeted and locally relevant.

In addition, with Aboriginal people in land-based industries or aquaculture and inland fisheries being important Hub stakeholders, Hub and GGA staff recently took part in a valuable two-day cultural training workshop.

In addition to improved awareness and understanding, potential Hub projects were identified.

The SW WA team can be contacted via [swwadroughthub@gga.org.au](mailto:swwadroughthub@gga.org.au) or find out more at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)



> SWWA Hub and GGA staff at a recent cultural training workshop facilitated by David Collard and Ken Hayward.



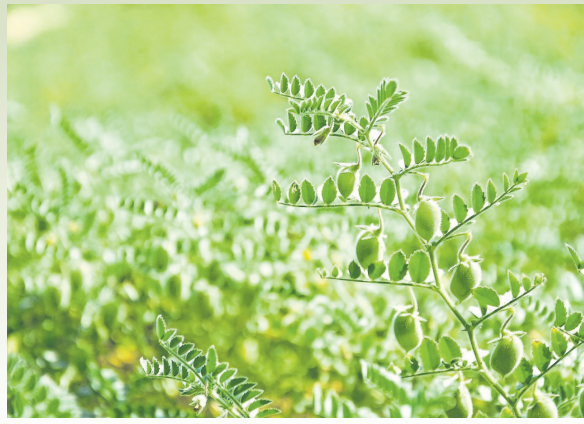


## R&amp;D PROJECT NEWS

**CLOSING THE ECONOMIC YIELD GAP OF GRAIN LEGUMES IN WA**

CLOSING the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA is a GRDC funded project aimed at addressing the low adoption of grain legumes in WA farming systems. GGA will collaborate with government, agribusiness, researchers and multiple grower groups to support growers to access the benefits of legumes in crop rotations.

The project combines extension, trials, technical and economic analysis. The project is in development phase now, visit the project page for further updates at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au).

**MEASURING HARVESTER LOSSES**

THE Measuring Harvester Losses in Western Australia project was borne out of findings by agricultural consultancy Planfarm that an astounding \$90 million worth of canola is estimated to be lost from the back of harvesters yearly in Western Australia.

Funded by the GRDC and in collaboration with GGA, grower groups and consultants, this project aims to establish baseline measures of harvester grain losses, support growers with machinery decisions to mitigate losses, share insights gained from the project and identify continued research needs.

Keep watch on the project web page at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au) for updates on the work done last season by grower groups and other partners.

**THE LIMING CONUNDRUM**

SOIL acidity is a big constraint to crop profitability, costing growers \$500m+ annually. As growers prepare for the upcoming cropping season, it's time to consider a liming strategy to counteract this collective financial loss. The WA Farm Data Sharing (WAFDS) model, a joint initiative with DPIRD, Curtin University and the Food Agility CRC, in collaboration with GGA, has solutions that could ease on-farm liming decisions. Visit the project page for the update at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au).

**POST FROST & NEW SEASON CROP NUTRITION WORKSHOP – MARCH 9**

AS part of the GRDC funded Frost Project led by GGA, farmers and advisors are invited to a MADFIG hosted presentation on March 9 in the Merredin district to hear the latest advice on crop nutrition for the crop sown following serious frost events plus learn about frost mitigation strategies to minimise impacts of frost on profit. Farmers attending can discuss their personal frost management plans with input and guidance from ConsultAg's Garren Knell and Jordy Medlen. Contact MADFIG for event details.

**SheepLinks FEED365 Project**

SHEEPLINKS FEED365, aims to redesign livestock forage systems for grazing all year round in Mediterranean environments. The GGA is collaborating with DPIRD on the FEED365 Project, which is co-funded by DPIRD and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Research commenced at the DPIRD Katanning Research Facility and three local groups have been successful in their application to host demonstration trials sites over the next three years and include West Midlands Group, ASHEEP and Wagin-Woodanilling Landcare Zone group. Visit the project page for further updates at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

**STORED GRAIN PROJECT**

THE crop is off, but it's important to continue checking grain in the silos. Ben White, GRDC grain storage project partner in WA and agricultural engineer at the Kondinin Group, can conduct workshops on best practices. Refer to the project page at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au) for access to guest speakers on storage and resources.

**WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS**

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

**Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)**

WHEATBELT Integrity Group (WIG) is all about regenerative agriculture, and what it can do for soil health, human health and environmental health.

The group was established in 2014 and has over 100 member followers from the Newdegate area and beyond. The main activity is an annual field day in October attended by about 70 farmers, agronomists and other stakeholders.

Look the group up in the GGA A-Z Network List at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

**TrialCo Pty Ltd**

TRIALCO Pty Ltd was formed in 2016 by local farmers and local agricultural businesses with the aim of delivering efficiency in plot trials for the Great Southern region.

In 2021 it undertook more than 40 trials for a wide array of clients, including local agribusinesses, multi-national life science companies, government and GRDC.

More at [trialco.com.au](http://trialco.com.au)

**Society of Precision Agriculture Australia**

SPAA is a non-profit and independent member-based group formed in 2002 to promote the development and adoption of precision agriculture (PA) technologies.

The association aims to help improve the profitability and sustainability of agricultural production systems by facilitating research, extension and the adoption of PA.

More at [spaa.com.au](http://spaa.com.au)

**GGA NETWORK****GROWER GROUP MEMBERS**

Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)  
 Association for Sheep Husbandry Excellence Evaluation & Production Inc (ASHEEP)  
 Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)  
 Compass Agricultural Alliance  
 Corrigin Farm Improvement Group  
 Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI)  
 Facey Group  
 Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)  
 Fitzgerald Biosphere Group  
 Gascoyne Catchments Group  
 Gillamii Centre  
 Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association  
 Liebe Group Inc (LIEBE)  
 Lower South West Grower Group  
 Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)  
 Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)  
 Moora Milling Pasture Improvement Group  
 Morawa Farm Improvement Group  
 Mortlock Ag Focus Group  
 Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative  
 Noongar Land Enterprise Group  
 North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources  
 Northern Agri Group  
 Nyabing Farm Improvement Group  
 O'Connor Research Group  
 Oil Mallee Association of Australia  
 Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)  
 South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)  
 Southern Dirt Incorporated  
 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance  
 Stirlings to Coast Farmers  
 Sweeter Banana Co-operative  
 Toodyay Agricultural Alliance  
 Turf Growers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)  
 WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd  
 WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)  
 WA Regenerative Livestock Producers  
 West Midlands Group  
 Western Australian Lot Feeders Association  
 Western Beef Assoc Inc  
 Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)  
 Women in Farming Inc  
 Yuna Farm Improvement Group

**ASSOCIATE GROUP MEMBERS**

Broomehill Cropping Group  
 Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee  
 Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee  
 Holt Rock Group  
 Jerdacuttup Top Crop and Pasture Improvement Group  
 Lakes Grower Group  
 Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)  
 Living Farm Grower Group  
 Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)  
 Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

AgZero 2030  
 Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)  
 Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)  
 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association  
 Gascoyne Food Council Inc  
 Gate 2 Plate Inc.  
 Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)  
 Julianne Hill  
 Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group  
 Rural Edge  
 Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)  
 South West Catchments Council  
 Southern Biosecurity Group  
 TrialCo Pty Ltd  
 vegetablesWA  
 Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)

**NETWORK PARTICIPANTS**

Bugs & Biology  
 Carnamah Land Conservation District Committee  
 East Wagin Top Crop Group  
 Evergreen Farming  
 Future Food Network  
 Munglinup Local Farmer Group  
 Neridup Soil Conservation Group  
 North Mallee Farm Improvement Group  
 Southern Forests Community Landcare Inc  
 The Sheeps Back  
 Wandering Productivity Group

To connect with your local grower group visit [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)