



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
Together we grow

Supported by media partner



RECENT **activities**

DPIRD-GGA COLLABORATION EXTENSION

MINISTER MacTiernan has released a statement in relation to a two-year extension to the existing DPIRD-GGA Collaboration agreement. Effective November 2021, the agreement was adjusted to a six-year term with a revised value of \$7.3 million split between 30% cash and 70% staff, resources and support services (whole life of the agreement). Details via the **GGA website**.



STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION

ELECTED DIRECTORS FOR GGA

GGA directors Nicole Batten (Yuna Farm Improvement Group) and Debbie Gillam (Mingenew Irwin Group) were returned for a further two-year term as GGA Directors at the recent AGM held on 16 September. A third vacancy remains and the GGA Board will now undertake the process of appointing a member director for the final board position. Enquiries to GGA chair Peter Roberts.

INAUGURAL GGA CHAIRS SUMMIT

CHAIRS from 10 grower groups were among 23 delegates that attended a new networking dinner on 15 September aimed at developing working relationships between leaders of GGA's voting member groups. Agriculture Minister Alannah MacTiernan and DPIRD's deputy director general primary industries development (PID) Cecilia McConnell also attended. Special thanks go to Farmanco Management Consultants who made the event possible via sponsorship support.



A 'GOOD TO GREAT' PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS

BOOSTING the human capital for the WA agricultural industry was made in a big way in August when 25 delegates polished their public speaking skills at GGA's 'Good to Great' Public Speaking Workshop with Esther Price.

Networking value of the day was also enriched with a 50/50 split of industry and grower group delegates present.



FROST STUDY TOUR SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO VICTORIA

SUBSIDISED through a GRDC study tour grant, GGA collaborated with DPIRD to facilitate a frost extension experience over 3 days and 10 sites through South Australia and Victoria. Attended by 18 delegates, in-kind co-ordination for the tour was provided by DPIRD and GGA. The 14 growers that participated originated mostly from the southern part of WA and were accompanied by staff from GGA, Facey Group and DPIRD's frost research scientist, Brenton Leske.



PROJECT MANAGERS TRAINED BY THE DOZEN

TWELVE delegates completed the GGA hosted Diploma of Project Management certification as a 4-day residential course at Muresk in August. Eleven delegates were from the Grower Group Network with one from DPIRD. Delegates covered work packaging, deadlines, budget, risk, and communication plus electives related to team personality profiling and impactful communications.



STUDY TOUR GOING PLACES

FIFTEEN delegates plus day trippers participated in a 4-day study tour in July including growers and grower group staff from Binu to Albany, GGA and DPIRD staff. Sixteen host sites generously shared time and knowledge with delegates, who gained insights to latest practice and the farming context within the northern agricultural region. Special thanks go to Farmanco Management Consultants who provided a generous ticket subsidy, making participation more affordable and accessible.



GRAINS PODCAST

DID you know that DPIRD has a podcast series called Grains Convo? With harvest about to begin and many hours soon to be spent in the header, tractor and truck cab, this is a great time for growers to subscribe, download and have a listen.

In this podcast series DPIRD staff, who are renowned experts in their field, talk about research projects that target crop protection, crop production, soils and genetics in broadacre crops.

They also discuss how this research assists grain growers with their grains operation and

helps them prepare for next season.

There are more than 20 podcasts already published covering a wide range of topics including: Managing diamondback moths, gene editing for crop improvement, mechanical soil amelioration, oat diseases – red leather leaf and leaf rust, managing Matricaria and much more.

The Grain Convo podcast series can be downloaded or streamed, for free, from **Apple Podcasts** and **Spotify**. Even better, subscribe to the series to receive a notification as soon as a new episode is published.

R&D PROJECT **NEWS**

GGA/HUB TEAM EXPANDS

RECENT GGA staff appointments will enhance the ability of the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SWWA Hub) to help farmers adapt to a drying climate and maximise adoption of research outcomes.

The SWWA Hub is a major project led by the GGA with funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Most of the staff appointments were made possible by additional funding from the Australian Government this year, including \$2.5 million to expand the Hub's scope to include innovation and more than \$1m to employ adoption officers.

The staff will ensure the GGA/Hub has the capacity

to deliver on new outcomes required under these programs.

Julianne Hill will take up the role of SWWA Hub Adoption Manager in November and work with recently appointed Hub Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Manager and Adoption Officer Theo Nabben and Hub Adoption Officer Maddison McNeil.

Jo Wisdom is the GGA's new innovation manager and will help the SWWA Hub (and GGA) to increase innovation uptake by producers.

Also joining the GGA recently was Project Manager Daniel Kidd, who will work across a range of GGA projects.

View team information at via the About Us - Management page at www.gga.org.au



> GGA CEO Rikki Foss (second from left), with recently appointed GGA/South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub team members, innovation manager Jo Wisdom (left), hub monitoring, evaluation and learning manager and adoption officer Theo Nabben and hub adoption officer Maddison McNeil.



R&D PROJECT NEWS (CONTINUED)

WATERSMART DAMS MEASURES HOW GROWERS SURVIVE THE DRY YEARS

GROWERS have been selling stock, carting water, and reducing the volume of water used in their spray programs to get through the dry years. As we look toward the dry season the WaterSmart Dam's project is working to attain further information on how growers have been managing this resource.

So far the results to the WaterSmart Dams survey conducted by project partner UWA show insufficient water supply and poor water quality have had an economic and operational impact on farm businesses.

The survey also indicated growers were seeking better information on cleaning out dams, stopping leaky dams, and are looking to view demonstration sites for showcasing HDPE plastic catchments and efficient roaded catchments.



Even with the early results, the project team requires further insight to refine its delivery of project activities.

Growers are encouraged to share their experiences by completing the WaterSmart Dams survey by October 31 via the project page at www.gga.org.au

LONG-TERM LEGUME GROWERS AS MENTORS FOR NOVICE GROWERS

GGA in collaboration with government, agribusiness, researchers, grower groups and growers, is addressing concerns about pulse reliability, profitability, and production through the GRDC funded 'Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA' project.

The project stems from GRDC analysis indicating farmers are aware of the benefits of legumes in crop rotation and had trepidation of its implementation and success.

To combat the adoption gap, GGA in conjunction with project partners is assembling a network of 'Legume Leaders' who have been pioneering the way of legumes in their crop rotations for some time.

The network is a space where insights from long term local WA growers are shared and



successes of legumes in their farming system are advocated for.

Meanwhile growers with an interest in adding grain legumes to their rotation are urged to join the project follower list via the project webpage page at www.gga.org.au

HARVESTER LOSSES REPORT SHOWS MILLIONS LEFT IN THE Paddock

KEY findings from a 'scale of grain and profit lost' study conducted during harvest 2021 as part of the **Measuring Harvester Losses** project found an estimated \$300m+ of grain was being left in the paddock.

Findings from the 12-month GRDC investment, led by GGA, have been compiled from a study conducted across 75 sites during harvest 2021.

Historically growers have relied on a visual assessment of the ground, and this study demonstrated the importance of using drop trays to determine losses and calibrate loss sensors.

GGA found the average losses in wheat and barley crops were about two and 4.6 per cent

per hectare respectively. In canola, losses were measured at 3.2 per cent per hectare but were as high as 10 per cent at some sites

The results have helped establish indicative baseline harvest loss parameters for each crop across port zones.

From these results GRDC has curated Harvester Set Up Forums where growers can learn how to prevent and measure grain losses, and improve efficiency and output methods of harvest weed seed control.

The full report on the harvester losses findings is available for download on the project page at www.gga.org.au

HUB CONTINUES TO HAVE IMPACT

A TOTAL of 22 Australian Government-funded projects involving the Hub have commenced in the SW WA region or are soon to start.

The Hub's involvement in the 22 projects (worth \$19 million, including co-contributions) ranges from the Hub being the lead organisation through to it being in regular contact with project representatives and communicating outcomes.

The GGA/SW WA Hub has received funding for initiatives that boost local capacity (for example, the employment of Adoption Officers) and leads projects such as

WaterSmart Dams and 'Modern soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation management'.

SW WA Hub Director Mark Holland said the Hub

team had provided information, guidance and co-design opportunities to many stakeholders that applied for Future Drought Fund (FDF) grant opportunities in 2021/22.

GGA/SW WA Hub project contracts are listed on page 15 of the 2021/22 GGA Annual Report at www.gga.org.au

Keep an eye out for FDF grant rounds (and other FDF news) by subscribing to 'Have your say' at <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund>.

SW WA DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB

\$10m

FDF-aligned cash funding for Hub operations 2021-24

52

Hub Consortium Partners

46

Regional Advisory Committee members

\$19m

Value of WA projects that are FDF-affiliated and supported by the Hub 2021-24

22

Number of WA projects that are FDF affiliated and supported by the Hub in 2021-24

WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at gga.org.au

Regen WA

CURRENTLY, a 'Community of Practice' with over 1,200 followers, the purpose of RegenWA is to broaden the uptake of farming practices that conserve and restore the natural capital that our food systems depend on. This is achieved through supporting farmers who are identifying profitable practices that restore natural capital and providing them with a safe platform for them to share their knowledge and skills with other farmers. More at <https://www.regenwa.com/>

Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.

WITH more than 60 members, the group objectives are to take a proactive, collaborative approach to the facilitation of declared pest management within its community. They do this via a co-ordinated effort across the region and by working with landholders, government departments, industry groups and neighbouring biosecurity groups. More at <https://www.nbg.org.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
 Future Food Producers Group
 Gascoyne Catchments Group
 Gillamii Centre
 Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
 LIEBE Group
 Lower South West Grower Group
 Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
 Mingenew Irwin Group
 Moora Miling Pasture Improvement Group
 Morawa Farm Improvement Group
 Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative
 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)
 Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
 South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
 Southern Dirt Incorporated
 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
 Stirlings to Coast Farmers
 Sweeter Banana Co-operative
 Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)
 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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

AgZero 2030
 Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
 Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
 Gascoyne Food Council Inc
 Gate 2 Plate Inc.
 Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
 Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
 Julianne Hill
 Northern Biosecurity Group Inc.
 Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
 RegenWA
 Rural Edge
 South West Catchments Council
 Southern Forests Community Landcare
 Southern Forests Food Council
 Torbay Catchment Group
 vegetablesWA
 WA Citrus
 WA Future Food Network
 Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone
 Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)

NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

Bugs & Biology
 Carnamah Land Conservation District Committee
 East Wagin Top Crop Group
 Evergreen Farming
 Munglinup Local Farmer Group
 Neridup Soil Conservation Group
 North Mallee Farm Improvement Group
 The Sheep's Back
 Wandering Productivity Group

To connect with your local grower group visit gga.org.au