



**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

Supported by media partner

## RECENT activities

### LIFT OFF

GGA delivered its inaugural 'Lift Off' retreat for 26 network members in mid February. Aiming to develop operational links between GGA and stakeholders in the network, the two day program comprised of facilitated workshops in stakeholder management, working with the GGA team, and open forums on improving performance in collaborative projects with major project investment partners, the GRDC and MLA.



### GGA CAPACITY BUILDING NUMBERS ARE IN

ONE of GGA's three strategic pillars is to build the capacity of the grower group network. The capacity building program aims to develop groups' knowledge and skills supporting groups to have a higher impact in their local community. Some of the program is open to the wider industry which facilitates links between industry and the GGA network. In 2022 GGA delivered 21 activities, attended by 460 delegates, collectively investing 5,483 hours to attend.



> Full details of activities can be found in the GGA annual report on the GGA website

### GROWER GROUP BENCHMARKING APP GOES LIVE

AFTER 18 months in development and a \$53,000 investment, GGA has launched a new grower group benchmarking app. Aside from enabling grower group members to benchmark their operations to other groups, GGA aims to identify network scale issues that could pose risks and threats to the network as well as identify strategic level capacity building needs. Adoption by users is expected to take up to a year to gain traction.

### FARMANCO ENABLES GROWER GROUP INITIATIVES

THE opportunity to activate GGA member initiatives has been well embraced by GGA network, with nine member groups applying to receive a portion of \$17,500 in-kind services from Farmanco as part of a new sponsorship partnership with GGA. The selection panel will announce successful initiatives by March 30.

## R&D PROJECT NEWS

### BOOKINGS OPEN FOR STORED GRAIN WORKSHOPS

GRDC's on ground WA grain storage expert Ben White is now taking bookings for free grain storage presentations.

Sessions cover pests, moisture, seed storage, and temporary storage. Lodge a digital booking request to host a presentation with Ben White via the Stored Grain project page on the GGA website.

### NEW PODCAST: CANOLA IN THE HIGH RAINFALL ZONE AND DISEASE MODELLING TOOLS

IN the latest episode of Grains Convo, DPIRD research scientists Jeremy Curry and Jean Galloway chat about their respective canola research.

Jeremy focuses on optimising macronutrient inputs for canola in the high rainfall zone, while Jean details all of the latest updates to DPIRD's suite of disease modelling tools. Subscribe to GGA's podcast Grains Convo on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

### GGA JOINS WAARC

GGA has joined the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, an initiative aiming to reinvigorate WA's research, development and extension capabilities.

GGA is among seven other Collaboration participants, including the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Australia's national science agency CSIRO, and WA universities: Curtin, Edith Cowan, Murdoch and The University of Western Australia. GGA's involvement will bring producer insights, industry networks and funding to help drive research extension and adoption across WA.

The new initiative is backed by \$25 million in WA Government investment over three years and a \$10 million commitment from the GRDC.



> WA Agricultural Research Collaboration Steering Committee representatives, Grower Group Alliance (GGA) Chair Peter Roberts (left) and DPIRD Deputy Director General Primary Industries Cec McConnell, with Agriculture and Food Minister Jackie Jarvis, GGA Chief Executive Officer Rikki Foss and DPIRD Chief Primary Industries Scientist Ben Biddulph.



> GGA delegation pictured at evokeAg

### EVOKEAG ATTRACTS AN INTERNATIONAL CROWD

SIX members of the GGA team attended the Agrifutures evokeAg conference held in Adelaide in February.

The GGA delegates were among 1600 in attendance from 18 countries around the globe. While receiving the latest on industry issues and trends, evokeAg was an opportunity for GGA to forge connections and find new partnerships to build momentum across GGA work to benefit the network.

### HUB SHAPING DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROJECTS

THE South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) is proactively shaping and attracting investment aimed at increasing the drought resilience of local farmers.

Team members have assisted numerous organisations and individuals applying for recent Future Drought Fund (FDF) grant rounds – one focused on extension and adoption (E&A), and the other on long-term trials.

They have connected people across WA and the nation with similar ideas; assisted potential applicants to interpret and meet the guidelines, which included addressing Hub drought resilience priorities; and reviewed and provided feedback on project ideas and applications.

### AGRIFOOD DATA EXCHANGE PROGRESSES

THE Australian AgriFood Data Exchange is an industry-led, nation-wide project with a vision for an interconnected data highway for Australia's agrifood value chain.

The national collaboration, led by MLA, is now in its design and delivery phase. GGA was involved in use case development and identifying governance structures and infrastructure needs.

Stay abreast of all GGA activities and subscribe to its ag industry newsletter "Newswire" & statewide calendar at [gga.org.au](http://gga.org.au)

Follow GGA on  
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## R&amp;D PROJECT NEWS (CONTINUED)

**HARVESTER LOSSES PROJECT PHASE TWO**

IN October last year, GGA and GRDC released a 20/21 harvester losses report from phase one on ground project work done by three grower groups across 75 sites that estimated \$300 million in grain losses during harvest. The phase two of data collection undertaken by grower groups over the 22/23 harvest will consolidate the data findings to demonstrate benefits of harvester loss mitigation techniques. Extension of the Phase one findings and recommendations were shared through the GRDC harvester set up workshops pre 22/23 harvest. Phase two findings are expected to be shared by June 2023. More on the project at the GGA website.

**GRAIN LEGUMES – SEVEN MORE TRIALS COMING UP**

THIRTEEN grower groups across the WA agricultural growing region will participate in legumes trials as part of the GRDC investment to address the low adoption of grain legumes in WA.

Sign up to follow the trial work and find out more about how the project is closing the economic gap of grain legumes on the GGA website.

**WATERSMART DAMS SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS WATER QUALITY CONCERNS**

RESULTS from a key survey demonstrated that insufficient water supply in dry years and poor water quality for livestock and herbicide use were having an economic and operational impact on farm businesses.

Funded by the Future Drought Fund (FDF) and the WA Government, the WaterSmart Dams project is a collaboration between GGA, UWA, DPIRD and grower groups. Read the survey summary at the GGA project webpage.



> Aerial photo of dam at the Merredin Dryland Research Institute by Prof. Nik Callows of UWA.

**TECHNOLOGY HARNESSSED TO REDUCE YIELD GAP**

REDUCING the yield gap is important in a drying and warming climate, and a new project is assisting grain growers to use different sources of data to inform in-season management.

The Liebe Group is leading the 'Agtech decoded' project after successfully applying for an innovation project grant offered through the SW WA Hub in 2022, via funding from the FDF. CSIRO and grower group Stirlings to Coast Farmers are collaborators in the project.



> Liebe Group participants in the 'Agtech decoded' project learning how to get the most out of technology with representatives from remote monitoring service provider Wildeye® and DPIRD.

**HUB INNOVATION PROJECT PROBES BIODEGRADABLE MULCH**

IRRIGATED crops such as grapes, citrus and vegetables in WA's South-West agricultural region are worth \$900 million to the economy but are vulnerable to climate change.

Demonstration sites are showcasing the potential of a novel, semi commercialised Sprayable Biodegradable Polymer Membrane (SBPM) developed by CSIRO to address these challenges.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is leading the project after successfully applying for an innovation project grant offered through the SW WA Hub, via funding from the Future Drought Fund.

SBPM, applied as a ground cover, has potential to improve water use efficiency, influence soil temperature and moisture retention and weed control while contributing to overall soil health.



> DPIRD Research Scientist Truyen Vo collecting harvest data at a Swan Valley table grape vineyard trial site.

**DROUGHT RESILIENCE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED**

STUDENTS from the WA College of Agriculture in Cunderdin have investigated solutions to help WA farm businesses adapt to a warming and drying climate. Their ideas included improved water catchment systems, solutions to reduce dam evaporation and underground water piping. The students were participating in a 2022 pilot of a Drought Resilience and Innovation Challenge initiated by the SW WA Hub. The Challenge will be repeated this year with an aim for all WA Agriculture Colleges to participate.



> Student participants in the SW WA Hub's pilot Drought Resilience and Innovation Challenge pictured with Hub Knowledge Broker Tanya Kilminster and WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin, principal Matt Dowell.

**WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS**

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

**WINES OF WA**

WINES of Western Australia (WOWA) has joined the GGA network as its newest Associate member. Established in 1987, WOWA strives to provide a unified, strategically influential voice that creates opportunities for WA's 9 fine wine regions. Read more about WOWA's history and achievements in the GGA network A-Z directory.

**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  
 Gillamij Centre  
 Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association  
 LIEBE Group  
 Lower South West Grower Group  
 Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)  
 Mingenev Irwin Group  
 Moora Miling 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)  
 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  
 Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)

**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.  
 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 Biosecurity Group  
 Southern Forests Community Landcare  
 Southern Forests Food Council  
 Torbay Catchment Group  
 TrialCo Pty Ltd  
 vegetablesWA  
 WA Citrus  
 WA Future Food Network  
 Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone  
 Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)  
 Wines of WA

**NETWORK PARTICIPANTS**

Bugs & Biology  
 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](http://gga.org.au)