



Media Release

12/04/2023 For Immediate Release

Farmanco 'in-kind' sponsorship awarded to WA grower groups

Seven Western Australian grower groups will receive valuable support from Farmanco as part of a three-year Grower Group Alliance sponsorship partnership with the farm advisory organisation.

The round one recipients will receive 'in-kind' support such as access to Farmanco staff, expertise or resources – to deliver initiatives that provide value to their members and the broader grower group network.

Initiatives worth \$27,500 will be supported after a GGA/Farmanco selection panel reviewed grower group submissions for the Farmanco 'in-kind' program.

The successful applicants include Yuna Farm Improvement Group (YFIG), WA Regenerative Livestock Producers (WARLP), Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI), North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources (NSPNR), Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance, Lower South West Grower Group, and Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG).

Farmanco Chief Executive Officer, Keith Symondson, said the sponsorship initiative, delivered in partnership with GGA, represented an opportunity for the organisation to extend its support more broadly.

"While Farmanco has provided in-kind support to individual grower groups in the past, we really wanted to expand the concept and our collaboration with GGA is helping us to do this," Mr Symondson said.

"It was great to see such a diversity of high-calibre proposals from the network, and I'm delighted that we have been able to support so many fantastic ideas."

YFIG received most of the 'in-kind' support under round one of the program, with support valued at \$17,500 allocated to a farm scale trial which will inform the development of a 'compensation calculator' and decision making methodology for host farmers who provide their land and time to participate in research, development and extension trials.

The group's initiative will benefit other grower groups and industry, and once the calculator and methodology are developed they will be shared with the broader GGA network.

YFIG Secretary Nicole Batten stressed the wider network and industry benefits of her organisation's initiative.

"On-farm trials are a vital component of innovation and adoption, and this calculator will assist grower groups to adequately commit and measure their worth to businesses and industry," Ms Batten said.



“It will be an extremely useful tool for farm businesses and grower groups and create some consistency throughout the industry network.”

Projects awarded to other grower groups under the ‘in-kind’ sponsorship program address areas including business model reviews; Geographic Information System mapping coaching; financial tools and forecasting analysis; grant application strategizing; and branding support.

GGA CEO Rikki Foss said this unique ‘in-kind’ sponsorship model provided groups with a new level of capacity building to benefit WA’s agricultural industry.

“It was encouraging to see the grower groups’ appetite for this kind of expert support,” Ms Foss said.

“Yuna Farm Improvement Group’s application, with its wider network benefits, is testament to the reach and value of this sponsorship.”

“A smaller but still significant pool of \$7,500 will be available under round two of the Farmanco ‘in-kind’ support program and we encourage groups to start thinking about initiatives to further benefit the network,” she said.

This round will open on June 1.

Full details of activities supported on the GGA website <https://www.gga.org.au/activities/farmanco-in-kind-program/>

- ENDS -

Contact

Kallista Bolton

Stakeholder & Communications Manager – GGA

kbolton@gga.org.au

0421 623 406

Interviews

Rikki Foss

CEO, Grower Group Alliance

Keith Symondson

CEO, Farmanco

Nicole Batten

Secretary, Yuna Farm Improvement Group