2017 | GROWING EXPECTATIONS

A NATIONAL GROWER GROUP SUMMIT

17 - 18TH AUGUST 2017 | PAN PACIFIC PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Twitter handle: #2017ggagrow

Growing Expectations is a National Summit hosted by WA's Grower Group Alliance. It will set the scene for national investment trends in the research, development and extension landscape and present the opportunities for regional and local economies through farming group networks.

Where do farming groups need to be in the next 5 years?

With a demand for increasing return on RD&A investment by national development corporations, this forum will investigate how farming groups need to position their networks to be part of the extension supply chain landscape and continue delivery of extension activities to maximise adoption for R&D investments into the future. The Summit will also present future opportunities for the increased innovation discovery and adoption within the farm gate by farmers through the farming group network and offer solutions to capitalise on the challenges of the future.

Thursday, 17th August

Session 1: Investment across the agricultural R&D supply chain – past, current and future

Extension frameworks for adoption of research and development in agriculture has evolved over time, as have farming groups across Australia. How have these developments influence the current landscape for farming groups, their value and how will these networks fit in the future with increases in private sector extension investment.

Session 2: Strategies for increasing Australia's return on ag-industry R&D Investment

What are the national strategies for increasing returns from R&D? Programs are focused on building the capacity and increasing the engagement of the private extension sector, this offers opportunities to build coordinated extension systems to create efficiencies benefiting across R&D sectors. This session will discuss what the extension supply chain may look like into the future and the critical issues for grass roots extension.

Session 3: Role of farming groups in business, governments and community

Farming groups have become central to local and regional communities. In the absence of core support networks these agri-clusters of farming groups provide integral services to their economies. Hear how groups can evolve to build business off the integrity of collaboration while maintaining the social structures they support.

Session 4: Innovation and disruption for farming group networks

There is much discussion around innovation and accelerated investment in the agri-industry with significant focus from commercial fund managers looking for opportunity. You will hear about the industry from outsiders looking in and cutting edge research and innovation that will influence future technologies for mixed farming enterprises and the industry.

Origins Restaurant Cocktail Dinner, WA Grower Group Award & Network Showcase

Friday, 18th August

Session 5: Co-ops & partnerships to maximise adoption

Across the ag-extension communities of Australasia there are contemporary collaborations leading the agri-industry sector in adoption. These range from profit partnerships directly linking industry and farmers in the pre & post competitive spaces, collaborations accessing specific markets to creation of "value" to support management decision making in the abundance of precision agriculture data.

Session 6: Changing the model but maintaining the integrity

How can the model of farming groups evolve? Change is inevitable however, the integrity of peer to peer extension networks can be maintained. These networks are the closest line of site for industry and investors to access farmers so how can these be optimised. Options for agri-clusters will be discussed with proposed and existing models of regionalised operating hubs.

Session 7: Connecting the supply chain

Shortening the relationship between farmers and industry within the supply chain will lead to greater transparency and clearer market indicators for the industry. Topics to be covered will include the benefits of having a coordinated supply chain for industry, what this translates to for producers and is there a role for farming groups?

Session 8: Future directions for farming group networks

The final session of the Summit will discuss the trends in investment and how this will impact and provide opportunities for farming group and ag-extension communities across Australia.

Speakers include:

Richard Heath, General Manager Research - Australian Farm Institute
Steve Jefferies, Managing Director – Grains Research and Development Corporation
Richard Fitzgerald, Project Manager for Extension Design – Red Meat Profit Partnership (NZ)
Ralph Addis, A/Director General - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Liam O'Connell, General Manager – WA Open for Business
Ruth Nettle, Associate Professor – Rural Innovation Research, University of Melbourne
Michael Crowley, General Manager – Meat & Livestock Australia
Chris Sounness, Chief Executive Officer - Birchip Cropping Group, VIC
Niki Curtis, Executive Officer – SEPWA & Elisa Spengler, Executive Officer - RAIN
Cindy Cassidy, Chief Executive Officer – FarmLink, NSW
Christine Kershaw, Chief Executive Officer – Stirlings to Coast Farmers, WA
Peter Cooke, Director – Agknowledge & the Value of Grower Groups
Jan Paul Van Moort, Principal Strategist – Acil Allen

Conference Sponsors include:

Register for the 2017 Growing Expectations, National Grower Group Summit at
www.gga.org.au/growing-expectations-2017

The Grower Group Alliance has arranged a group accommodation rate with the
Pan Pacific Perth.

Pan Pacific Perth, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA
Tel: (08) 9224 7777   Toll Free: 1800 049 610
Email: group.ppper@panpacific.com
www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-resorts/australia/perth.html
Bookings can be made directly with the hotel via:
Email or phone using reference number: 1668531
Weblink: https://aws.passkey.com/e/49266801

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) is a farmer-driven project connecting grower groups, research organisations and agribusiness network across WA. It is funded by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through Royalties for Regions.

For more information please contact the Grower Group Alliance (Western Australia)
on (08) 6180 5759 or admin@gga.org.au