



**MEDIA RELEASE – Friday 1 July 2016**

**GROWER GROUPS TO COME TOGETHER AT ANNUAL FORUM IN AUGUST, FOCUS ON COLLABORATION FOR SUCCESS**

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) Annual Forum is back for 2016 and will be held on 18-19 August at the Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough.

‘Collaboration · Value · Success’ is the theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> GGA Annual Forum, which aims to bring growers, grower groups, researchers and industry together to collaborate and network to improve regional RD&E delivery.

A unique opportunity for grower group staff, members and key industry stakeholders, the GGA Annual Forum will bring them together to talk about their successes, challenges and above all to develop solutions that will lead to a more profitable and sustainable agricultural sector.

This year’s Annual Forum has undergone a makeover from previous years, with tickets now available to all wishing to attend. Previously, the forum had been an invitation only, cost free event, however is now open to all at a cost of \$150 per ticket.

The new registration format of the Forum will vastly increase the benefits to those attending said GGA Project Officer, Sarah Houston.

“Now that the forum is open to a broader audience, it will be a fantastic opportunity for grower groups to network and build relationships at a wider industry level,” said Ms Houston.

Also new to the 2016 Annual Forum will be the addition of the inaugural *Grower Group Excellence Award*. This award will be presented to a WA grower group that has made a significant contribution to the industry and is excelling in achieving their group vision.

Kicking off this year’s Annual Forum will be a half day grower group member only workshop on Thursday 18 August to discuss the strategic direction of the GGA. Friday 19 August will be a full day forum program followed by the CBH Group Sundowner.

Speakers for the event include Peter Cooke of AgKnowledge, Nigel Herring from AMPS Agribusiness as well as Alexandra Gartmann from Rural Bank. Speakers from a number of grower groups will also have the chance to share their stories of successful collaboration and engagement with industry.

The Grower Group Alliance is a non-profit, farmer driven organisation connecting grower groups, research organisations and agribusiness in a network across WA. The GGA is funded by DAFWA through Royalties for Regions.

The 2016 Annual Forum will be sponsored by CBH Group, Grains Industry Association of WA and GRDC Online Farm Trials.

The Annual Forum program will be released and registrations opened on **Monday July 4 2016**.

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*Image A: Stephen Davies (DAFWA) and Sarita Bennett (Curtin University) presenting at 2015 Annual Forum.*

*Image B: Elisa Spengler (Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network) and Rebecca Wallis (Grower Group Alliance) attending the 2015 Annual Forum.*