

Brian Carlin Memorial Lecture

By Adj/Prof John Kirkegaard

Wednesday, 16 August 2017 @ 5.00pm
Bayliss Lecture Theatre G:33, UWA



The UWA Institute of Agriculture



From dust bowls to food bowls: Australia's conservation farming revolution

The challenges of global food security and climate change have re-focused public and political attention on agriculture in Australia.

Images of dusty ploughed fields and dying sheep and trees have generated a public perception of an inappropriate "European" agriculture in Australia that belies the innovative, efficient and productive farming systems that have developed during the last 30 years.

In this talk, Adj/Prof John Kirkegaard will discuss how Australia's innovative farmers now grow a diversity of crops and pastures without tillage, underpinned by fundamental and adaptive agricultural research.

They retain stubble to protect the soil, and use satellite-guided precision seeding, spraying and harvesting to provide highly efficient production with reduced environmental risk.

Innovation is continuing apace, with

rapid soil and plant sensing to guide management, better forecasting of weather and crop yields, and novel physiology and genetics to provide better crop varieties to meet the challenges, in the coming decades, of substantially increasing food production in environmentally benign ways.

About Adj/Prof Kirkegaard

Adjunct Professor John Kirkegaard was raised on the Darling Downs in rural Queensland and studied Agriculture at school, and then at Queensland University where he gained his Bachelor of Agriculture in 1983, and his PhD in 1990 investigating the impact of soil compaction on the growth of grain legumes.

He joined CSIRO as a farming systems agronomist in 1990 to focus on the development of more sustainable dryland farming systems in southern Australia.

Rising to the level of Chief Research Scientist in 2014, his research team has been at the forefront of numerous national

initiatives to improve productivity and resource-use efficiency in agriculture.

He is regularly invited to speak at International meetings on aspects of sustainability and food security and his career has included two periods of research based in UK (John Innes Centre, 1997) and University of Copenhagen (2012).

He is the recipient of the grains industry Seed of Light award (2008), the Eureka Prize for Sustainable Agriculture (2015) and was elected Fellow Australian Academy of Science in 2016.

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday 16 August 2017

Time: 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Venue: Bayliss Lecture Theatre
The University of WA
Crawley 6009

RSVP: to ioa.uwa.edu.au/events/register

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