



***“A grower group that specifically addresses issues and finds solutions to improve farming systems in your area”***

### **LEADA's 2017 achievements and 2018 focus**

LEADA continued to deliver the GRDC stubble management project along with other smaller projects funded by a range of partners. Through this project a successful Weed Management Workshop was held in March 2017 covering areas of Weed Management, recent research and an introduction to the integrated weed management tool (RIM) providing participants to input information. Trials are continuing and results from the project will be extended through LEADA's Expo and Field Days in the following year. LEADA along with EPARF hosted a 'Stubble Extravaganza' in November 2017. 39 researchers and advisors attended the interactive workshop, heard the latest research and recommendations on overcoming the barriers to stubble retention in relation to nutrition, weeds, pests (snails, mice), disease and stubble management, and participated in discussions. Thanks to Naomi Scholz for arranging and hosting the event.

Due to the dry start to the season in 2017 funding gained through the National Landcare Program to conduct pH mapping of a total of 1,000 ha and prepare best practice guidelines for management of low pH soils, including 2 case studies from farmer experience was granted an extension to June 2018. LEADA is hoping for a wetter start to the season to enable the pH mapping to be carried out.

LEADA was successful in securing a three year SAGIT grant looking at Copper Management for the Future. The project aims to explore different management strategies to overcome copper deficiency in cereals, comparing the effectiveness of copper sulphate and copper chelate applied either as liquids banded at seeding or as a foliar spray.

A very successful GRDC Dry Start Forum was held on 16 July 2017 in Cummins with assistance from LEADA. The forum was very timely, with excellent speakers covering cropping and livestock areas and allowed the 130 participants time for questions and conversations throughout the sessions. LEADA also provided assistance and support to GRDC for the GRDC Farm Business Update held in Port Lincoln on 5 July 2017 and the GRDC Grains Research Update held in Cummins on 11 August 2017.

GRDC funding for three years has been secured to establish and run nine 'pulse check' groups across the Southern Region of Australia and LEADA is facilitating the Lower Eyre Peninsula group learning/discussion and practical field sessions that focus on 'back to basics' lentil and/or chick pea production.

LEADA gained funding support through the EPNRM Sustainable Farming Systems Project Grant to run a second series of 5 workshops titled 'Understanding Crop Production for Women'. The workshops cover areas about growing cereals and legumes; disease, weed and pest identification and management; opportunities and risks; business management and marketing. The final workshop in Series II will be held in February 2018.

Into the future LEADA's focus will be around profitable pulses and pastures, cover crops and soil carbon and summer fodder trials. LEADA has applied for NLP Smart Farms Small Grant for a Deep Ripping/Slotting project and is involved in several Smart Farming Partnership projects from Sneaking Acidity, Cover Cropping, Deep Ripping and Farm Resilience.

As always, links with GRDC, the Australian Government, Rural Solutions SA, SARDI, EPARF and the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board continue to be critical to the ongoing success of LEADA.

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An initiative of the  
Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture.



Government of South Australia  
Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources  
Management Board

