

# GRDC Foreword

On behalf of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), it is a pleasure to present to you this 2018 Eyre Peninsula (EP) Farming Systems Summary. This annual publication is a valuable resource that consolidates local research, development and extension (RD&E) activities, providing information and insights to build knowledge and assist on-farm decision making.

The local RD&E findings presented within this report are the result of significant individual or collaborative investment by the GRDC, the South Australian Research and Development Institute; the University of Adelaide; the South Australian Grain Industry Trust; Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; EP Agricultural Research Foundation; Lower Eyre Agricultural Development Association and EP Natural Resources Management Board, in collaboration with local farm advisers and agribusinesses. The information is of direct regional relevance and therefore of real value to local farmers and advisors, helping inform decision making that impacts business performance and profit.

Season 2018 presented the region's farmers with variable conditions and unfortunately, for many, profitability was challenged due to below average rainfall, persistent strong winds and in some cases frost. But in a year of mixed fortunes, others, particularly in parts of the lower Eyre Peninsula, achieved average or above average yields and hence were able to capitalise upon generally strong commodity prices.

A season such as this serves as a reminder as to both how far we have progressed and yet how many challenges still remain. The widespread adoption of farming systems based around harvesting and conservation of water, low disturbance seeding systems, appropriate varietal selection and crop sequencing, improved nutrient management and good crop agronomy have been instrumental in the quest for higher and more stable yields. But now, more than ever, there is a need to find ways to ensure farming systems are more robust and resilient to address the volatility in seasonal conditions, declining terms of trade, increasing global competition, greater regulation and challenges surrounding right to farm.

All of these challenges, critical to the enduring profitability of grain growers, require ongoing yet focused investment in RD&E. 'More of the same' will no longer be sufficient and hence there is a need to explore transformational new approaches to address these problems head-on. This intent is at the heart of the GRDC's new five-year RD&E plan. Now well into the first year of the 2018-23 plan, the GRDC and its valued research partners are working hard to address the plan's priorities for investment in RD&E. If you wish to know more about the plan, go to <https://grdc.com.au/about/corporate-governance/strategic-rd-plan> or make contact with one of the GRDC Southern region team members on 08 8198 8400.

This EP Farming Systems Summary is an important mechanism for capturing and delivering the latest knowledge from regionally-based research ahead of the coming season. Many of the trials detailed within this publication are also catalogued on the GRDC's Online Farm Trials web portal ([www.farmtrials.com.au](http://www.farmtrials.com.au)) which provides open and free access to on-farm or field-based cropping research trial data and information. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to visit the site and make good use of the reports and data available.

Congratulations are extended to all those involved in preparation and production of this summary – a milestone 20th edition – particularly the SARDI staff involved in collation of the content.

I wish all involved in farming on the EP all the very best for a prosperous and safe 2019 season. Happy reading.



Craig Ruchs, GRDC Senior Regional Manager – South

