



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

LEADA’s 2019 achievements and 2020 focus

In 2019 LEADA continued work on several small projects funded by a range of partners, these included the Copper Management Trial funded by SAGIT; Pulse Check Group funded through GRDC’s Southern Pulse Extension Project and the Increasing production on sandy soils in low and medium rainfall area of the southern region project also funded through GRDC. LEADA entered into a number of statewide projects including NLP2 funded Warm and cool season mixed cover cropping; Rural R&D for Profit funded Dryland Legume Pasture Systems; and NLP2/EPNRM Board funded Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator.

LEADA reviewed the sites for the third year of the SAGIT grant looking at Copper Management for the Future. One original site and one new site were chosen. The project explores 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.

LEADA continued to deliver the GRDC funded project establishing and running nine ‘pulse check’ groups across the Southern Region of Australia. LEADA is also facilitating the lower Eyre Peninsula group learning/discussion and practical field sessions that focus on ‘back to basics’ lentil and/or chick pea production. The delivery of the ‘Pulse check’ discussion group on lower Eyre Peninsula has been conducted by George Pedler with 4 group meetings being held in 2019. There is hope that this project will continue for an additional year to further the learnings of each of the groups and build a strong project legacy.

In 2019 LEADA’s involvement with the Warm and cool season mixed cover cropping project included two Cover Crop demonstrations being planted and the preparation for a Cover Crop plant species screening trial to be planted early 2020. LEADA participated in the successful Joel Williams Soil Knowledge Tour and visit to the cover crop demonstration site at Wangary.

LEADA were also successful in securing funding through NLP2 for a project increasing adoption of new techniques combining physical, chemical and plant based interventions to improve soils function on Eyre Peninsula. The project will increase awareness of methods to address a range of soil constraints, by demonstrating how the combination of deep incorporation of chemical amendments (lime and gypsum) and the inclusion of organic materials can address soil physical and chemical constraints that reduce plant root growth and limit soil biological function.

LEADA hosted a successful Expo in March 2019 and their annual Spring Field Walk in September 2019. Key speakers included Jason Trompf and Hamish Dickson at the Expo and Nick Poole, Jason Brand and Stuart Nagel at the Spring Field Walk.

During 2019 LEADA and EPARF representatives have been working towards a merger of both organisations due to reduced state government input and support, and the decreasing funding opportunities for research projects. Members of the two organisations will vote on the merger in early 2020.

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
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