

Expanding Pulse Production through Extension

Pulse Check Discussion Groups



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What & Why?



- Grains Research & Development Corporation investment: *'Building capacity, skills and knowledge for the pulse industry in the Southern Region: Supporting expansion of high value pulses into new areas and ensuring sustained profitability of all key pulse crops in existing areas'*
- Realise the potential long-term farming system and financial benefits of high-value pulse crops in the Southern Region
- Supported expansion of high value pulses into new areas through discussion groups
- 12 discussion groups established in non-traditional pulse growing regions

Where & Who?

The target audience is inexperienced pulse growers (12) & advisors (3)




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How?

- Each group has a local facilitator
- Groups meet four times per year (x3 in paddock)
- Prior to each round of meetings, facilitators receive technical training and resources
- The groups provide input into the meeting program
- It's a discussion based on peer-to-peer learning – not presentation
- Experienced growers and agronomists are leveraged
- Extensive evaluation will be conducted at project completion

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Key Learnings

- Trials (guided by group members) have been critical to project success
 - Allow flexibility to accommodate regional conditions and constraints
 - Practical, hands on meetings, encompassing all areas of pulse production get traction
 - Most groups are keen to continue in some capacity
 - Collaboration between pulse projects and researchers is essential
 - Don't overlook the value of the social element
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Thank-you

- Grains Research & Development Corporation
- The ~35 people involved in the Project
- The GRDC Southern Pulse Agronomy Investment

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