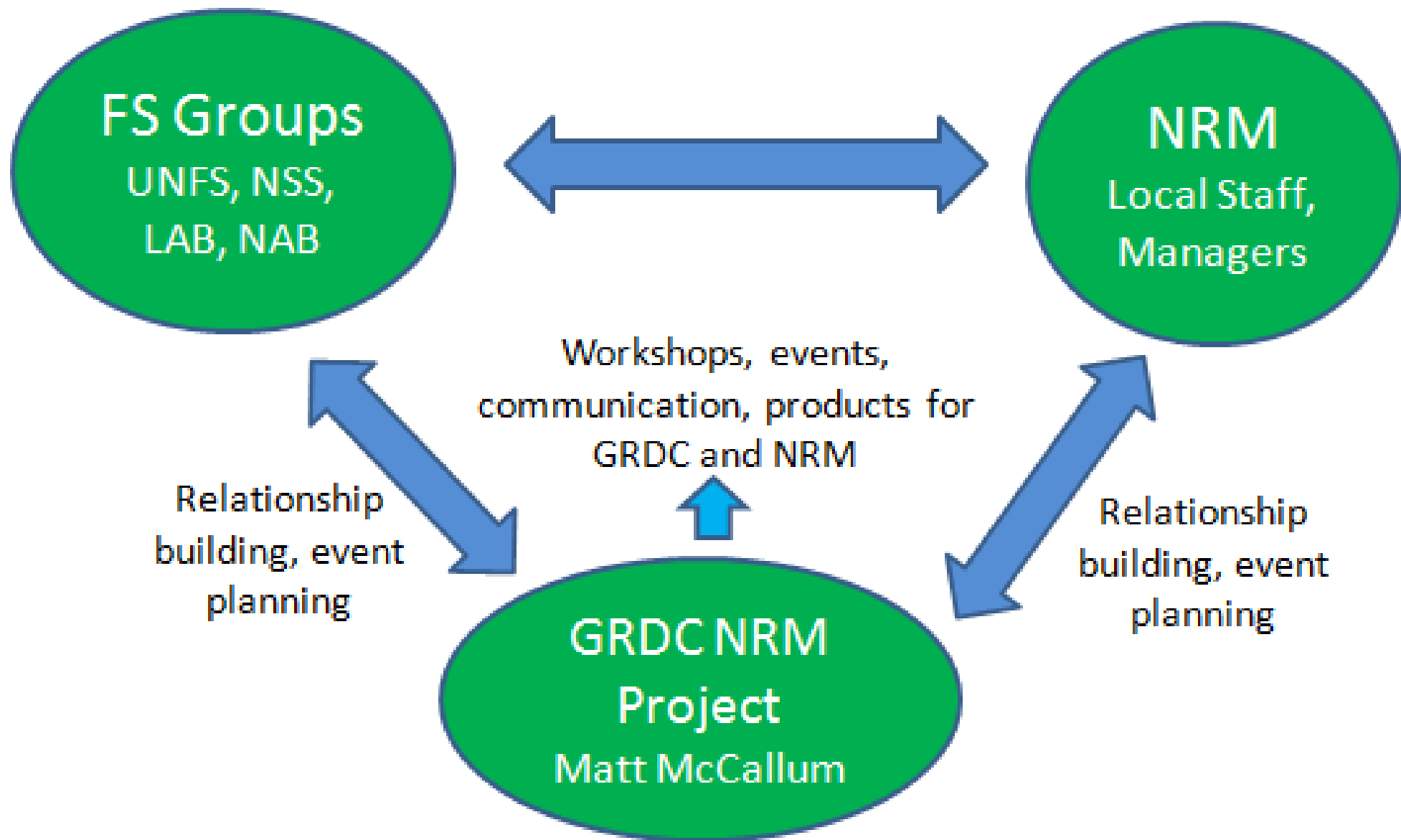


Delivering multiple benefit messages – A partnership between the grains industry and NRM



Priority issue – Northern and Yorke Region

**“Holistic approach to weed management –
all weeds in all years”**



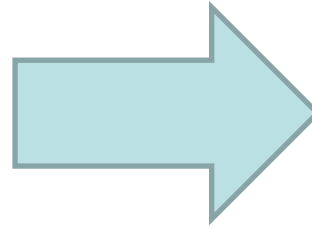
Optical spot spray technology



Optical spot spray technology



Optical spot spray technology



Non-chemical weed control options



Soil improvement for better weed control




Communication material



Upper North Farming Systems

Stubble Management Guidelines

Onion weed management



Key facts

- The incidence of onion weed is increasing in low-rainfall conservation farming systems across South Australia.
- Onion weed populations tend to build up during the pasture phase of a cropping rotation, particularly where two or more years of pasture are used to break the cropping phase.
- Where cultivation is not an option to control onion weed, trial results support the use of a range of pre-planting herbicide combinations.
- Control of onion weed in pasture systems is more complex due to the impact of effective herbicide options on pasture species.

Managing onion weed in retained stubble farming systems is increasingly challenging. Photo: Peter Baker

Onion weed management

options in crop and pasture systems, low-input rangeland grazing systems and other non-cultivated areas are often limited to hygiene practices, reduced total grazing pressure and chipping or spot spraying to prevent or delay new infestations.

As part of the Maintaining Profitable Farming Systems with Retained Stubble initiative, funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Upper North Farming Systems Group has investigated a range of onion weed control options to reduce the need for cultivation.

Control of onion weed in cropping systems

The introduction of sulfonylurea (SU) herbicides, in combination with cultivation and competitive crops and pastures, during the 1980s provided effective control of onion weed in cropping systems. Since the move towards no-till farming systems and the reduced use of these herbicides, onion weed populations have increased, particularly during seasons with high summer rainfall.

Onion weed (*Asphodelus fistulosus* L.) is an annual, biennial or perennial, unpalatable, drought-tolerant, grass-like herb that reproduces by seed only. The weed produces abundant, white-pink flowers during spring and summer, yielding as many as 13,200 seeds per plant.

Onion weed can germinate throughout the year, but usually after summer rainfall. It prefers light, disturbed, neutral to alkaline soils, particularly in areas where other vegetation is sparse or absent.

Project information

This onion weed management guideline has been developed for the Upper North Farming Systems Group (UNFS) as part of the Maintaining Profitable Farming Systems with Retained Stubble Initiative, funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

The initiative involves farming systems groups in Victoria, South Australia and southern and central New South Wales, collaborating with research organisations and agribusiness, to address challenges associated with stubble retention.

The GRDC, on behalf of growers and the Australian Government, is investing \$17.5 million in the initiative that has been instigated by the GRDC Southern Regional Panel and the four Regional Cropping Solutions Networks that support the panel.

The 2014 Onion Weed Herbicide Efficacy trial conducted by UNFS presented in this guideline was funded through the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board Community Grants Program.

Stubble Management Guidelines — Onion weed management

