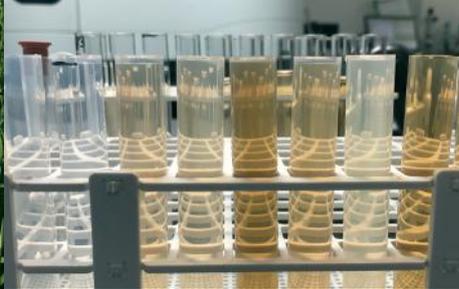




Project adviser Sean Mason, of Agronomy Solutions
Photo: AgCommunicators



GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

SOIL AND PLANT TESTING FOR PROFITABLE FERTILISER USE

Free workshops for growers and advisors

A Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) investment, titled “Using soil and plant testing data to better inform nutrient management and optimise fertiliser investments for grain growers in the southern region”, is focused on increasing growers’ use of soil and plant testing data to better inform their fertiliser decision-making.

The three-year investment, led by Agronomy Solutions in conjunction with Australian Precision Ag Laboratory (APAL), CSIRO, Landmark, Hart Field-Site Group, AgCommunicators, and other Farming System Groups and independent Agronomic Consultants, will develop an economic framework to quantify the likely returns from improved nutrient management techniques and the opportunity to boost farm profit while managing risk. The framework will assess soil and plant testing approaches including frequency, phase in the rotation, sampling intensity, soil depths and sampling in controlled traffic paddocks.

From here, an intensive, high-impact soil and plant testing demonstration program involving approximately 100 growers across the southern region has been undertaken. Each participating grower has been provided with Fertcare® accredited soil sampling and analysis, interpretation of results and fertiliser recommendations for six paddocks per year.

At nutrient responsive sites, growers have been supported to instigate fertiliser test strips to illustrate responses, supported by plant tests. The impact on nutrient use efficiency, profit for each grower (costs, input savings and/or increased income) and soil data has been compiled and trends across the region summarised each year. Soil and plant testing data will provide a useful snapshot of nutrient status and soil fertility in the southern region and will help highlight emerging issues such as soil acidity and declining organic matter.

Ultimately, the investment aims to improve nutrient management best practice through the increased use of soil testing and provide grain growers in the southern cropping region (Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania) with the confidence, knowledge and ability to make more effective and profitable nutrient management decisions.

PROJECT FACTS



ABOUT 5000 SOIL PROFILE SAMPLES HAVE BEEN COLLECTED EACH YEAR



AROUND 40,000 INDIVIDUAL ANALYTES HAVE BEEN MEASURED EACH YEAR



MORE THAN 100 GROWERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A FERTCARE® SOIL AND PLANT TESTING PROGRAM



MORE THAN 200 GROWERS AND ADVISERS HAVE BEEN SURVEYED TO UNDERSTAND THEIR APPROACH TO SOIL AND PLANT TISSUE TESTING



THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE FIELD DAYS, CROP WALKS AND WORKSHOPS

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Sean Mason, Agronomy Solutions, 0422 066 635

WORKSHOPS

Adelaide	Monday 21 June	9.00am - 11.30am	Morning tea included
Maitland	Tuesday 22 June	11.00am - 1.30pm	Lunch included
Blyth	Wednesday 23 June	11.00am - 1.30pm	Lunch included
Lock	Thursday 24 June	11.00am - 1.30pm	Lunch included
Bordertown	Monday 28 June	9.00am - 11.30am	Morning tea included
Ouyen	Tuesday 29 June	9.00am - 11.30am	Morning tea included
Bendigo	Wednesday 30 June	9.00am - 11.30am	Morning tea included
Bannockburn	Thursday 1 July	9.00am - 11.30am	Morning tea included

AGENDA

- Welcome/Introduction
 - Discussions with Agronomists:
 - What are the main issues surrounding P and N and achieving yield potential
 - Why, how and when to sample
 - Evaluation of the production and gross margin impacts of a management response to soil test information
 - Are N decisions tactical or strategic
 - Case studies and learnings from implementing on farm trials
-
- **OPTIONAL** Individual paddock result discussions with Project Team (outside of advertised finish time)

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL.

Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/2Q3Jy5q>

Loren Revell-Karutz, AgCommunicators, 08 8332 3277 or loren@agcommunicators.com.au

PROJECT PARTNERS:



WITH SUPPORT FROM:

Mallee Sustainable Farming, Southern Farming Systems and Ag Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula