

LIEBE GROUP MEDIA RELEASE



18th May 2018

Liebe Group grow trials territory in 2018

The Liebe Group will facilitate the delivery of twenty six research and development trial and demonstration sites from Koorda through to Eneabba in 2018. This will be the largest geographical spread of trials the group has managed in its 21-year history.

The trials and demonstrations will be in collaboration with the Liebe Group's valued research and industry partners and will provide Liebe members and the wider agricultural industry with information and knowledge of various on-farm management strategies to improve the profitability and sustainability of farming businesses.

The group also continues its commitment to delivering long term research in the Liebe region in 2018. In its eighth consecutive season at the east Dalwallinu site, the Liebe Group Practice for Profit Trial continues, and for the first time funded entirely by the group.

Liebe Group President Ross Fitzsimons says that "long term research is a strategic priority for the group and the Practice for Profit trial has always been of high interest to our members."

"This trial allows us to see the difference in profitability between low and high input cropping practices over an extended period and assess the economic implications for farming businesses" stated Ross.

Projects with GRDC investment, form a large part of the Liebe Group R&D program this year, with the group leading three new projects, with another continuing this season.

One GRDC investment is a project demonstrating legumes for reliable profitability in the Geraldton, Kwinana West and Kwinana East port zones. The project aims to provide growers with access to agronomy packages for legumes and to whole farm modelling tools for their own farms, to determine if particular legumes are profitable in their system.

Local Koorda farmer, Nathan Brooks believes that being able to use a legume as a break crop will be critically important to his business going forward.

"With more cropping and less sheep, we need something else in the system. Canola isn't always the best break crop option, so we need to have more options for the future and trials are a great way to test these crop types on our property," said Nathan.

In collaboration with other grower groups across these regions, and with Farmanco Management Consultants, the project will include a total of nine demonstration sites from north to Yuna, east to Koorda and south to Tincurrin, as well as nine crop sequencing workshops over the life of the project.

Another exciting project being led by the group this season was developed from members priorities around micronutrient deficiencies and management. Due the implications of the on-going demand for crops that yield higher, rotations that are more intensive, expansion into marginal land where nutrition is limited and the decline of adequate growing season rainfall in the medium to low rainfall environment, these deficiencies are becoming more common.

The project proposes to determine the requirements and benefits of a foliar application of micronutrients in a low rainfall environment. The project which has GRDC investment, will investigate the benefits of foliar micronutrients on cereals over two years including an extensive grower plant sampling survey in 2018 and demonstration activities in 2019.

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The Liebe Group is a dynamic, grower-driven, not for profit organisation servicing over 100 farming businesses within the Dalwallinu, Coorow, Perenjori and Wongan-Ballidu Shires, encompassing a land area of over 1,000,000ha. The group is committed to facilitating locally relevant research through regionally specific trial and demonstration projects.

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Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development sowing the lentil variety trial at Dalwallinu



Lupins, Vetch, Chickpeas and Field Peas: just some of the legumes being grown in this seasons GRDC Legume Demonstration