

RIRDC – Rice Research and Development Committee Report

IREC Annual General Meeting – 2008

After another year of extremely low allocation and, therefore, a record low rice harvest, funding for rice research is not getting any easier.

The R&D Committee have, for several years, been budgeting for an ever decreasing pool of money for our research program. Our prudence over the last few years has enabled us to continue our core business, especially our breeding program, and has maintained most of our human capital.

As with last year, no new projects have been funded. We also have made some existing projects smaller and more centralised to ease budgetary pressures. A big thank you must go out to our researchers and their co-operation in this process.

2007-08 saw the following projects completed:

- Continuing on farm yield improvement based on agronomy crop modelling.
- Developing management options to mitigate the straighthead occurrence in rice.
- Management and ecology of key rice pests.

Finally, on a sad note, 2008 saw the end of an association that IREC and Rice R&D enjoyed for many years. In June, IREC ceased the employment of three of its staff members that were long-time researchers in many rice projects. While we have enjoyed and cherished our association, we realise things change and times move on.

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Rice R & D Committee