

# **IREC Cropping Systems Sub-Committee Report**

*IREC Annual General Meeting – 2009*

A few members of the Cropping Systems Sub-Committee met earlier this year, prior to the GRDC Cropping Update, to discuss what should be presented at the Update.

A list of suggested topics was presented and prioritised, and new subjects were added to the list. Committee members were able to suggest potential speakers which the Update organiser then recruited to speak at the event.

The resulting program presented at the GRDC Update in August included many of the suggestions from the Cropping Systems Sub-Committee and was an interesting and relevant mix of topics.

Numbers were down on previous years, with the workshop attracting around 70 people. Unfortunately, not a lot of these were actually growers. As with last year, there were both plenary sessions and breakout session with a choice of topics that people could elect to hear about.

The program included a presentation on Grain Marketing from Ron Storey of *Australian Crop Forecasters*, as well as some interesting information from Kaye Dalton from *Water for Rivers* about the work they are doing with irrigators. *Booth Associates* also provided a presentation on “Planning for Profits in Challenging Times” and were able to demonstrate a Decision Making Software program they have available.

The Bureau of Meteorology also presented some information on long-range forecasting and the concurrent sessions included insect management, soil moisture monitoring, precision ag, greenhouse scorecard, bankless channels and stubble management.

Copies of the program including some of the presentations are available from the IREC office.

As usual, the IREC staff played a huge part in making the GRDC Update happen and I thank them for their time and expertise in making it a successful day.

The consultant who organises the GRDC Update – ORM Management from Bendigo – was very disappointed with the turn-out and has suggested we review the marketing of the event for next year, and has even questioned, if the event should take place. As far as IREC is concerned, we want to maintain this event and will try and work with them to ensure a successful update next year with more attendees.

**Peter Draper**  
**Chairman**