

Project Title: Updating PreDicta B root disease management course and manual
S1008R Final Report

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Project Supervisor: Dr A McKay

Contact Details: Ph: (08) 8303 9375
Mob:0419 842 952
Email:alan.mckay@sa.gov.au

Executive Summary

The Root Disease Risk Management Manual was upgraded and incorporated new modules on crown rot, stem nematode and biosecurity. Information on *Phoma koolunga* was also incorporated into the blackspot module.

Ten workshops were delivered across southern Australia, including 5 in South Australia, 2 in NSW, 2 in Victoria and 1 in WA. Workshop presenters included David Roget, Dr Margaret Evans (SARDI), Dr Grant Hollaway (DPIVIC), Dr Jenny Davidson (SARDI), Dr Vivien Vanstone (DAFWA) and Dr Sharyn Taylor (PHA). Dr Robert Hannam was course facilitator.

A total of 191 people participated in the workshops and included 118 (44 SA) agribusiness agronomists, 30 (6 SA) private consultants, 13 (4 SA) research agronomists from state departments or universities, 30 (24 SA) extension and farming systems agronomists from PIRSA rural solutions and farming systems groups. Exit surveys show the course and manual were highly regarded.

On 5 February, 2009 David Roget and Alan McKay also delivered a 1.5 hour update to 14 independent consultants meeting at the Plant Research Centre. (A 2 to 3 hour update version of the workshop needs to be developed for experienced agronomists).

These training courses will help growers avoid risk of large unexpected yield losses from soilborne diseases, particularly at this time when there are significant changes to farming systems and seasonal conditions.