

Media Release

15 February 2011

Money to help grain growers improve efficiencies

Grain growers and spray contractors in the Kilcummin area are invited to participate in training and funds that help improve farm efficiencies.

Up to \$11,000 worth of consultancy fees and funding are available to growers as part of natural resource management group NQ Dry Tropics and its Grains Best Management Practices initiative (Grains BMP).

The initiative aims to help grain farmers identify on farm practice changes that may improve long term profitability of the enterprise by incorporating best management practices.

This is better understood through a series of workshops available to growers wanting to access funding.

Growers in other grain regions like the Fitzroy Basin who have participated in similar workshops say they have saved money on chemicals through modifications to equipment and by refining practices to apply them more efficiently.

One farmer said he was applying three tanks of chemical mix to a paddock only to find that by using the correct spray nozzles he needed to apply just one for the same result.

Through Grains BMP growers get access to well regarded consultants like Graham Betts for free.

Graham says, "Most farmers appreciate the hands on approach that these courses give them.

"Also some farmers don't realise how much they don't know. This is a great chance to fill those gaps in knowledge. Some people book in without wanting to but are encouraged to. It's amazing how much they pick up."

Graham also feels strongly that everyone using bore water needs to have their water tested in a laboratory because of the potential impurities in it.

He says, "They could be using more chemicals than necessary to compensate for poor water quality which could compromise efficacy. This is what we can help farmers with.

The Grains BMP is also useful to demonstrate how farmers can document farm practices, something that is increasingly required of growers.

The Grains BMP initiative is being facilitated by natural resource management group Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative Ltd or CHRRUP.

NQ Dry Tropics' Chief Executive Officer Scott Crawford said CHRRUP has a great track record of working with growers in central Queensland.

He said, "It's good to be working with them and growers on such a successful project like Grains BMP which can help growers greatly."

CHRRUP's Shontae Moran will be working with grain farmers on the program.

She says "I am excited to be working on this program as there has been lots of good feedback from farmers who have participated in the Grains BMP program in the Fitzroy Basin.

"It is great that the Kilcummin grain farmers will now have an opportunity to benefit from the workshops, extra training and gain financial assistance through a funding grant offered by NQ Dry Tropics' Grains BMP program."

The program also enables the grain industry to demonstrate their good environmental management strategies to the wider community.

The Grains BMP workshops are being held in Kilcummin on 21 and 21 February 2011. To get involved call Shontae Moran on 0417 794 455 or email shontae@chrrup.org)

Grains BMP is part of the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Reef Rescue initiative.

Our region includes the local government areas of Townsville, Charters Towers, Burdekin, Isaac, Barcaldine, Etheridge, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and the Whitsundays. **Media contact:** For further information contact Kathy Cogo on (07) 4722 5730/0438 163 232 or email kathy.cogo@nqdrytropics.com.



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

