

# GRDC GROWER FORUM

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024, 3.00pm - 7.30pm  
PENONG



Photo: Nicole Baxter

**You are invited to attend a GRDC Grower Network Forum, which will be held at a local farmers shearing shed (address on registration) on Wednesday 20th March, 2024. Come along and contribute your suggestions for future GRDC investments in research, development and extension.**

The forum will gather your feedback and input into your local research and extension needs, and consider how GRDC investments could add further value to the region. The forum will provide an update on local GRDC investments and feature Dr Chris McDonough, from Insight Extension for Agriculture, presenting an update on Sodic Soils. The forum will also include Dr Gupta Vadakattu, Senior Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO, who will present on calcareous soil management.

It will also feature an update from Dr Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI, who will present on managing highly calcareous soils considering managing P, utilising bio-char, deep ripping strategies and improving

fertility of the subsoil. The forum is free of charge and will be led by GRDC Grower Relations Managers Rebekah Starick and Ruth Peek.

A facilitated workshop session will allow you to contribute the factors which are impacting your farm productivity and profitability. We will also review opportunities for local GRDC research, development and extension support.

All growers, advisers and industry representatives are welcome. Note that registration is essential for catering purposes.

Please bring your laptop or tablet for use during the workshop session. Devices will also be provided.

## WHERE AND WHEN

### VENUE:

Local farmers shearing shed  
(address on registration)  
PENONG SA 5690

**WHEN:** Wednesday 20th March 2024

**TIME:** 3.00pm to 7.30pm

Afternoon tea and dinner included.  
This is a free of charge forum.

AGENDA		
TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
3.00pm	<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<b>Rebekah Starick</b> / <b>Ruth Peek</b> Grower Relations Managers, GRDC
3.15pm	<b>Update on GRDC investments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snapshot of regional and national research, development and extension</li> </ul>	<b>Rebekah Starick</b> / <b>Ruth Peek</b>
3.45pm	<b>Review and identify factors impacting farm productivity and profitability</b>	<b>Rebekah Starick</b> / <b>Ruth Peek</b>
4.45pm	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>	
5.30pm	<b>Calcareous soil management:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microbiology in calcareous soils</li> <li>• N cycling and availability in calcareous soils</li> <li>• Rhizoctonia and disease suppression in calcareous soils</li> </ul>	<b>Dr Gupta Vadakattu Senior</b> Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO
5.15pm	<b>Review priority opportunities for local research, development and extension</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of potential GRDC investment support</li> <li>• Define local RD&amp;E needs</li> </ul>	<b>Rebekah Starick</b> / <b>Ruth Peek</b>
6.00pm	<b>Recognizing and restoring saline land in your farming system</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the different types and causes of saline soils</li> <li>• Using Satellite NDVI imaging to show extent of land under threat</li> <li>• Practical strategies (with farmer examples) for bringing Mallee Seeps back to production using the Mallee Seeps Decision tree</li> <li>• Tips for managing/overcoming Dry Saline Land (magnesia country)</li> </ul>	<b>Dr Chris McDonough</b> Farming Systems Consultant Insight Extension for Agriculture
6.30pm	<b>Update on calcareous soils management considering:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P deficiency as a throttle to early vigour and yield of broadacre crops.</li> <li>• Biochar at seeding to improve early vigour and yield</li> <li>• Deep ripping to manage subsoil compaction</li> <li>• Tip for improving the fertility of subsoils</li> <li>• Understanding and managing iron deficiency in pulses.</li> </ul>	<b>Dr Nigel Wilhelm</b> Senior Research Scientist SARDI
7.15pm	<b>Pathway forwards</b>	<b>Rebekah Starick</b> / <b>Ruth Peek</b>
7.30pm	<b>CLOSE</b>	

## REGISTRATION



**TO REGISTER CLICK HERE:**

[NationalGrowerNetwork\\_Penong.eventbrite.com.au](https://NationalGrowerNetwork_Penong.eventbrite.com.au)

*Registration is essential.*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Anita Giarratano**

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### \*A note on participant safety

A friendly reminder to please not attend if you have any respiratory symptoms / COVID 19. We will ensure any required safety measures are in place.