

Tactics for disease identification and management

Mildura, VIC | Thursday 3 September



Managing crop diseases is becoming more challenging. Fungicide resistance is reducing available control options, disease pressure varies between regions and crops, and the decisions made today can affect both this season's yield and the effectiveness of fungicides into the future.

Join the GRDC Disease Management Extension Network (DMEN) workshop in Mildura to gain practical, science-based insights into disease identification, fungicide stewardship and integrated disease management.

Hear directly from disease experts from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the Centre for Crop

and Disease Management (CCDM), Agriculture Victoria and FAR Australia, and explore real-world scenarios that reflect the decisions being made on farm each season.

Topics include:

- Disease identification for key regional diseases - soilborne diseases including fusarium crown rot and rhizoctonia; and cereal and pulse foliar diseases
- Why fungicides fail and how fungicide resistance develops
- Integrated disease management strategies including crop rotations, variety selection, timing, rates and non-chemical options
- Practical decision-making for effective disease control and resistance management strategies

Who should attend:

This workshop is open to growers, agronomists, advisers, consultants and others involved in crop disease management and fungicide decision-making. Places are limited to keep discussion practical and focused.

Key speakers are:

- **Dr Hari Dadu**, SARDI
- **Dr Josh Fanning**, Agriculture Victoria
- **Darcy Warren**, FAR Australia
- **Dr Nola D'Souza**, Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM)

This workshop will be facilitated by Bill Long, Ag Consulting Co, and Belinda Cay, AgCommunicators.

For more information: AgCommunicators

08 8332 3277 | events@agcommunicators.com.au

When: Thursday 3 September 2026, 9am – 5pm

Where: Mildura Golf Resort, 287 Twelfth St, Mildura VIC 3500

Cost: \$120 per person, lunch and afternoon tea included.

Participants will receive a resource kit that includes GRDC publications, copies of presentations and regional reference documents.



Register:

diseasemanagementextensionnetwork_mildura.eventbrite.com.au

The **Disease Management Extension Network (DMEN)** is a GRDC investment bringing together plant pathologists, extension specialists and behavioural scientists to improve disease management outcomes for Australian grain growers and advisers.

Disease Management Extension Network (DMEN) workshop - Mildura

Time	Detail	Who
9am	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping	Bill Long , Ag Consulting Co and Belinda Cay , AgCommunicators
10am	Setting the scene: Disease identification and epidemiology Mildura: Soilborne diseases including fusarium crown rot and rhizoctonia; and cereal and pulse foliar diseases - Why is the disease important? What are the economic or yield impacts? - Identification - what are host plants and what do symptoms look like? - Pathogen biology and life cycle – how does the disease survive, reproduce and infect plants? - What are the environmental and agronomic conditions that favour this disease? Key risk factors in this disease developing.	Dr Hari Dadu , Sub Program Leader - Pulse Pathology, SARDI Dr Josh Fanning , Plant pathology research leader, Agriculture Victoria
11am	Fungicide resistance explained - How does fungicide resistance develop? - Terminology, field vs laboratory detection - Fungicide resistance risk factors	Dr Nola D'Souza , Research Associate, Fungicide Resistance Group, Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM)
11:30am	Bus Stop Activity: What Good Looks Like To manage disease and to protect the longevity of fungicides, what do you consider when thinking about: - Crop rotations: What and why - Crop variety selections: MS / VS - Fungicide groups and choices - Application tactics (timings, rates, canopies, point in season, disease severity) - Disease IDs	Group activity
12:30pm	Debrief Each group shares key insights, summarises themes and gaps	Group activity
1pm	LUNCH (40 mins)	
1:40pm	Disease management Deep Dive + Top-Up - Genetics and disease risk, key timings, which fungicide, pre-emptive management to mitigate risk - What is the research telling us that was missing from the morning's activities?	Dr Hari Dadu , SARDI Dr Josh Fanning , Agriculture Victoria
2:20pm	Integrating fungicides with crop development for profit and to manage resistance risk	Darcy Warren , Senior Research Manager, FAR Australia
2:50pm	The principles of Integrated Disease Management	Dr Nola D'Souza , CCDM
3:10pm	BREAK (20 mins)	
3:30pm	Strategy Build: Putting it Together - In groups, design a disease management strategy - Groups present back / discussion	Group activity
4:40pm	Wrap-Up + Takeaways + Q&A + Resources	Facilitator
5:00pm	CLOSE	

The Disease Management Extension Network (DMEN) is an investment of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC Project: ACO2601-005RTX).

