

Tactics for disease identification and management

Toowoomba, QLD | Thursday 20 August



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 Toowoomba to gain practical, science-based insights into disease identification, fungicide stewardship and integrated disease management.

When: Thursday 20 August 2026, 9am – 5pm

Where: Gold Park Sporting Club, 341 Hume St, Centenary Heights, Qld 4350

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:
diseasemanagementextension
network_toowoomba.
eventbrite.com.au

Hear directly from disease experts from the University of Southern Queensland, Queensland DPI, the Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM), and FAR Australia, and explore real-world scenarios that reflect the decisions being made on farm each season.

Topics include:

- Disease identification for mung bean diseases: halo blight, fusarium wilt, tan spot, nematodes, powdery mildew
- 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 Lisa Kelly**, DPI Queensland
- **Dr Noel Knight**, University of Southern Queensland
- **Professor Levente Kiss**, University of Southern Queensland
- **Tom Price**, FAR Australia
- **Dr Kirsty Owen**, University of Southern Queensland
- **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

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 - Toowoomba

Time	Detail	Who
9am	Welcome, introductions and housekeeping	Bill Long , Ag Consulting Co and Belinda Cay , AgCommunicators
9.45am	Setting the scene: Disease identification and epidemiology Toowoomba: Mung bean diseases: halo blight, fusarium wilt, tan spot, nematodes, powdery mildew - 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 Lisa Kelly , Plant Pathologist, DPI Queensland Dr Noel Knight , Research Fellow (Plant Pathology), University of Southern Queensland Professor Levente Kiss , Centre Director, Centre for Crop Health, University of Southern Queensland Dr Kirsty Owen , Senior Lecturer (Crop Nematology), University of Southern Queensland
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 Lisa Kelly , DPI Queensland Dr Noel Knight , UniSQ Professor Levente Kiss , UniSQ Dr Kirsty Owen , UniSQ
2:20pm	Integrating fungicides with crop development for profit and to manage resistance risk	Tom Price , 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).

