



# AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Bringing The Elements Together*



## The Future for Agricultural Research, Development and Extension in Australia

**Thursday 11th & Friday 12th March 2010**

**Rydges Lakeside, Canberra**

**I am pleased to invite you to attend the AIAST Conference "The Future for Agricultural Research, Development and Extension in Australia".**

AIAST has an important role in advocacy on issues of importance to the agricultural and natural resource science professions and industries. Clearly one of the most important of those at present is where research, development and extension are headed in Australia.

We see investment in this area by governments and others falling at a time when we face increasing challenges such as food security, natural resource management, climate change policy, biosecurity as well as financial and social impacts on farmers and rural communities due to seasonal conditions and shrinking profit margins.

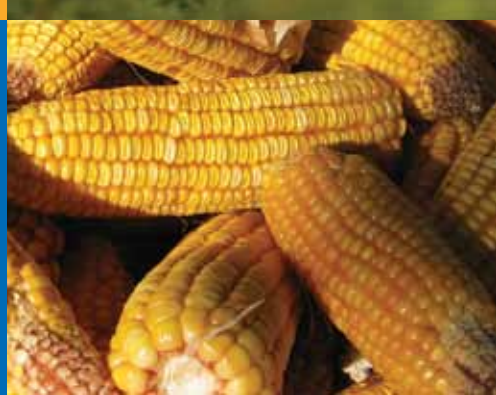
This is more than a Conference. Yes, it will explore the many and varied aspects of this issue but then, in a Workshop format, develop a range of responses and an Action Plan for all of us to play our part to increase the RD&E capacity in agriculture.

It is not just for research organisations, but everyone committed to the future of the profession and agriculture in Australia – and surely that is all of us.

We will only succeed if we have professionals like you there to represent the many views of the sector and be part of planning the way forward - **AND SUCCEED WE MUST.**

I look forward to meeting and working with you.

**Geoff Thomas**  
**AIAT National President**



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*Agriculture for the Future*



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8.30–8.45	Registration and Coffee	
8.45–10.45	<b>Official Opening &amp; Keynote Addresses</b>	
	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Opening – Mr Geoff Thomas</b>, National President, AIAST</p> <p><b>Platinum Sponsors Address – Mr Peter Reading</b>, Managing Director, Grains Research &amp; Development Corporation</p> <p><b>Agriculture in the National Innovation System – Mr Geoff Thomas</b>, National President AIAST</p> <p>What are the national priorities with regard to agriculture and how can science deliver the productivity increases needed for global food security as well as reduce agriculture's greenhouse footprint? Do we have the human and funding resources to meet contemporary</p>	<p>challenges and who will be undertaking rural RD&amp;E into the future?</p> <p><b>The Challenge for Agricultural Research, Development and Extension into the Future – Mr Ian McClelland</b>, Chair, Birchip Cropping Group</p> <p>What are the demands for science, both in the short and long term? How is agricultural RD&amp;E used on farm and in farming communities? What are the current challenges faced by industry and the information required? Has the level of agricultural RD&amp;E delivered in the past been sufficient and what is the present situation? Is there confidence in the ability to deliver in the future?</p>
10.45–11.15	Morning Tea	
11.15–12.30	<b>Session Two: The Demand for Agricultural Research, Development and Extension</b>	
	<p><b>Chairman's Introduction – Dr Hugh Dove</b>, AIAST ACT &amp; Southern NSW Division</p> <p><b>The State of International Agricultural Research, Development and Extension – Mr Nick Austin</b>, CEO, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)</p> <p>What is the global demand for Agricultural RD&amp;E and the case for continued investment? What are the current challenges and priorities for agricultural RD&amp;E and what role can Australia play?</p> <p><b>The Contribution of Research, Development and Extension to Agricultural Productivity – Dr John Mullen</b>, Adjunct Professor, Charles Sturt University</p>	<p>What are the past achievements of agricultural RD&amp;E in Australia and what is Australia's contribution to global agriculture? What are the requirements for successful RD&amp;E into the long term? What are the challenges for agricultural RD&amp;E today and into the future?</p> <p><b>The Current State of Agricultural Research, Development and Extension Investment in Australia – Dr Bruce Kefford</b>, Deputy Secretary, Agricultural Research &amp; Development, Victorian Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>A description of the National RD&amp;E framework and an update on the status of the PISC process. What were the aims of the PISC process? What has been learnt and what are the likely outcomes?</p> <p><b>Session Wrap-up</b></p>
12.30–1.25	Lunch	
1.25–3.00	<b>Session Three: Sectoral Views on the Current State &amp; Likely Trends for Agricultural Research, Development and Extension</b>	
	<p><b>Chairman's Introduction – Mrs Diana Melham</b>, CEO, AIAST</p> <p><b>State Department Perspective – Mr John Skinner</b>, Deputy Director-General, Agri-Science Queensland, Department of Employment, Economic Development &amp; Innovation</p> <p>A State Department perspective on the current status and likely trends for investment in agricultural RD&amp;E into the future. Who are the partners in agricultural RD&amp;E and what is the path to impact? How will State agencies maintain capacity and respond to emerging challenges? What is the demand for public policy input? What is the future for public extension?</p> <p><b>Agribusiness Perspective – Mr Peter O'Keeffe</b>, Country Lead for Monsanto Australia Limited</p> <p>An agribusiness perspective, as both a provider &amp; consumer of agricultural RD&amp;E, on the current status and likely trends for investment by the sector in agricultural RD&amp;E and the outlook into the</p>	<p>future? What are the sectors priorities for RD&amp;E, who are the partners in agricultural RD&amp;E and what path to impact is the most effective?</p> <p><b>Consultant's Perspective – Mr Mike Stephens</b>, Director, Mike Stephens &amp; Associates</p> <p>A private consultant's perspective, as both a provider &amp; consumer of agricultural RD&amp;E, on the current status and likely trends in agricultural RD&amp;E. What is the role for the consultant sector in agricultural RD&amp;E? How can consultants engage with the public sector?</p> <p><b>Grower Group Perspective – Dr Nigel Wilhelm</b>, SA Research &amp; Development Institute</p> <p>A grower group perspective, as both a provider &amp; consumer of agricultural RD&amp;E, on the current status and likely trends in agricultural RD&amp;E. How have grower groups added to the capacity for agricultural RD&amp;E? What is their future?</p> <p><b>Session Wrap-up</b></p>
3.00–3.25	Afternoon Tea	
3.25–5.30	<b>Session Four: Continued Sectoral Views, Discussion and Wrap-up</b>	
	<p><b>Chairman's Introduction – Dr Sam Nelson</b>, Manager – Rural Affairs, National Farmers Federation</p> <p><b>Universities Perspective – Professor Roger Leigh</b>, Head, School of Agriculture, Food &amp; Wine, University of Adelaide</p> <p>A universities perspective on the current status and likely trends for investment in agricultural RD&amp;E in the future. What are the findings of the Australian Council of Agricultural Deans with regard to attracting suitable research scientists and graduates? What is the current status of post-graduate training and is it sufficient to supply future scientific capacity? Is the supply of graduates that enter the</p>	<p>consulting sector and their further training needs being met?</p> <p><b>CSIRO Perspective – Dr Brian Keating</b>, Director, CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship</p> <p>A CSIRO perspective on the current status and likely trends for investment in agricultural RD&amp;E and the outlook for the future? What will be the RD&amp;E priorities, who are the partners in agricultural RD&amp;E and what is the likely path to impact? What are the research challenges and how will they be met?</p> <p><b>Discussion and Wrap-up – Professor David McNeil</b>, Director, Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, University of Tasmania</p>
5.30	Close	
6.30–10.30	Conference Dinner	



8.30–9.00	Arrival Tea and Coffee	
9.00–10.30	<b>Session Five: The Case for Investing in Agricultural Research, Development and Extension</b>	
	<b>Welcome &amp; Chairman's Introduction – Dr Peter Carberry</b> , Chairman, AIAST Organising Committee	
	<b>Research and Development Corporations' Perspective – Dr Alex Ball</b> , Manager, Lamb and Sheepmeat R&D, Meat and Livestock Australia	
	As a representative of RDCs, what do you see as the current status and likely trends for investment in agricultural RD&E into the future? What are your priorities for RD&E? What partnerships and path to impact do you see in agricultural RD&E? Are you concerned about capacity and ability to respond to emerging challenges? What was learnt from the PISC review and what will be the likely result from such effort?	status and likely trends for investment in agricultural RD&E into the future? Are you concerned about capacity and ability to respond to emerging challenges? How do we get traction from governments?
	<b>National Farmers Federation Perspective – Mr Ben Fargher</b> , CEO, National Farmers Federation	<b>Review of Perspectives and Issues – Dr Steve Thomas</b> , Executive Manager, Practices, GRDC
	As a representative of farmers, what do you see as the current	A synopsis of the presentations and summary of the key issues which emerged from presentations to date.
		<b>PICSE Bringing Talented Young People into Primary Industry: A Robust Evaluation – Assoc. Professor David Russell</b> , National Director, PISCE, University of Tasmania
		The Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) encourages talented young people to make an informed decision to choose a career in primary industry. This presentation describes the PICSE outcomes that are underpinned by a robust evaluation process.
10.30–11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00–12.30	<b>Session Six: Workshop Sessions</b>	
	<b>Objectives &amp; Procedures for the Workshop Sessions – Professor David McNeil</b> , Director, Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research, University of Tasmania	
	Introduction of the emergent questions which will be raised for discussion and an outline of the procedures and expected output from the workshop sessions. This includes the nomination of workshop leaders and allocation of meeting rooms.	<b>Workshop Sessions – Leaders of Each Group</b>
		For each question, workshop groups will collate views on the current state in Australia; identify the key challenges; likely solutions; outline the role of our profession; and develop proposed actions to progress the issue (who, what and when).
12.30–1.30	Lunch	
1.30–3.00	<b>Session Seven: Plenary Session</b>	
	<b>Leaders of Each Workshop Group Report Back and Discuss Issues Raised</b>	
	Reports from each workshop group on session outcomes.	
3.00–3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3.30–4.30	<b>Session Eight: Priorities for Moving Forward and Conclusion</b>	
	<b>Bring it Together – Mr Geoff Thomas</b> , National President, AIAST	
	Collation and prioritising of the Action Items in order to move forward.	
	<b>Conclusion – Dr Peter Carberry</b> , Chairman, AIAST Organising Committee	
4.30	Close	

## CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION Rydges Lakeside, Canberra

Conference Room Rate of \$165\* – Standard Queen or Twin room.

\*Rate is per room per night.

Breakfast may be included for an additional \$15 per person per night.

To book accommodation either:

- **TELEPHONE** – Rydges Lakeside on 1800 026 169 and quote reference R-11511AIAST OR
- **INTERNET** – visit the dedicated AIAST booking page at [www.rydges.com/cwp/aiaast](http://www.rydges.com/cwp/aiaast)

Please note, a limited number of rooms are being held for AIAST conference delegates and these will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.



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## REGISTRATION FORM

ABN 70 004 227 810

(This document will become a Tax Invoice for GST purposes upon receipt of payment.)

REGISTRATION DETAILS: (Please complete a separate form for each delegate)			
Title	First Name	Surname	Preferred Name
<b>Address:</b>			
Company name (if applicable)			
Postal Address: No. and Street name OR PO Box	Suburb/Town	State	Postcode
<b>Contact details:</b>			
Email Address	Telephone	Mobile	

Do you consent to your contact details being made available on the list of delegates? Yes  No

Please tick options: All prices include GST	AIAST Member*	Non-AIAST Member	Late Registration Fee#
Includes Lunch, Morning & Afternoon Teas	\$539 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$594 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$55 <input type="checkbox"/>
Attending Dinner (included in cost)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you booked accommodation at Rydges Lakeside?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

\*Please note – to be eligible for the AIAST member rate you must be a current financial member of the AIAST.

#Applicable to all registrations received after 12 February 2010 (AIAST members & non-members).

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellations received up to 12 February 2010 will be refunded less a \$55 administration fee.

Refunds will not be given for cancellations received after 12 February 2010. All cancellations must be received in writing by email, fax or post.

PAYMENT DETAILS:	
<b>Amount Due: \$</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CHEQUE</b>	
I have attached my cheque made payable to: 'AIAST'	
Please mail this registration form & cheque to AIAST PO Box 130 CURTIN ACT 2605	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CREDIT CARD</b>	
I authorise the total amount shown above to be debited to my credit card.	
Please ensure all sections of the authority are completed and fax this form to AIAST on 02 6163 8133.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visacard	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard
Credit Card Number:	Expiry Date: / /
Credit Card Holder:	CCV or CVN:
Signature:	