



Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Association

Media Release

CTF14 conference to focus on increasing sustainability for Australian growing

CTF 14, the ninth conference of the Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Association will this year be held at the Quality Hotel Mildura Grand on the 27 and 28 August. For delegates arriving early there is a free networking session available on Tuesday 26 August. Registration and program at www.actfa.net

The event will deliver relevant information and guidance for growers interested in adopting or improving a controlled traffic farming system, particularly those from a low rainfall zone.

Controlled traffic farming (CTF) reverses soil compaction by confining all heavy machinery to pre-defined wheel tracks leading to improved soil structure, increased soil water infiltration and improved enterprise profitability.

In order to present a balanced overview to conference delegates, some of Australia's best researchers, consultants and growers will be presenting at the event, with topics investigating the relationships between CTF and agronomic, economic, machinery and technological factors:

Senior Soil Scientist Richard MacEwan from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries will be the keynote speaker at CTF 14. Richard has significant experience in the management of degraded agricultural soils, and will give an address focusing on the extent and effects of compaction in soils in South-Eastern Australia.

Other speakers will include South Australian grower and Nuffield Scholar Mark Branson, who will be talking about the economic gains CTF has brought his 1200 hectare Stockport farm. Horsham farmer Geoff Rethus will talk about his journey to adopt a controlled traffic system and why he thinks all grain growers should confine paddock traffic. Wayne Chapman, a Queensland-based consultant and farmer, will present on the machinery planning involved with moving to a controlled traffic farming system.

Panel sessions will argue the pros and cons of CTF for growers in low rainfall zones, and invite delegates to better understand the mechanical and machinery modifications that may be needed as they move to adopt CTF. The use of precision agriculture technologies and UAVs to manage in-crop issues will also be discussed during the 2-day conference.

CTF 14 will offer growers the chance to learn more about a landmark \$2.25million ACTFA-led on-farm research and adoption project aimed at further investigating the application of CTF in marginal rainfall areas.

This project, developed in response to grower demand through the low rainfall zone grower solutions group, has been funded by the GRDC and will be delivered in conjunction with a team of farming systems groups across the low rainfall zone. This is an opportunity for farmers to become involved in this project, funded with their GRDC levies, to improve the future of their farm.

Event registration includes free tickets to networking sessions on the evenings of Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th August. For more information or to register for the conference, go to www.actfa.net

Hi-res photos available

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