

# MLA Participatory R&D

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## Objectives of Participatory R&D projects

- Involve innovative, information seeking producers in research funded by MLA
- Test if and how new research fits or could fit within farm systems if modified
- Speed up the development and adoption of new research
- Add value to the existing FIP research
- For producers to influence future research agendas

## Roles of the participants

### **Producers**

- Shape the research to be tested
- Provide farming and innovation expertise
- Implement & manage the project & site
- Give feedback to researchers

### **Researchers**

- Link to MLA's national research project
- Give research and topic expertise
- Provide advice

### **State coordinator**

- Provide group support & facilitation
- Broker agreement
- Link to MLA

## MLA's Feedbase Investment Plan

Pillar 1

### Plant breeding and evaluation

- Pre-breeding in phalaris and annual legumes
- Pasture Variety Trial Network
- Evaluate new species

Pillar 2

### Productive and sustainable pastures

- How to get more pasture with less P\*
  - New legumes in mixed farming\*
  - Pasture species for the sub-tropics
  - Root diseases in sub-clover
- \* Co-investment with AWI

Pillar 3

### Grazing systems management

- Real time pasture biomass
- EverGraze\*
- Dual-purpose crops
- Enrich

Participatory R&D

## Process for groups

- Call for 2 page EOI, 13 applications received in SA
- Assessed against selection criteria
- Facilitated session to further develop project plan
- Second stage applications to MLA for approval

## Groups in SA

- Barossa Improved Grazing Group
- MacKillop Farm Management Group

**South East Prime Livestock Achievers**



**"Profiting from Prime Livestock Production"**

## Topic for both: Root disease in subclover

- Martin Barbetti  
Winthrop Professor  
School of Plant Biology  
The University of  
Western Australia
- MLA Root Disease  
project



## Next steps

- Establish trial sites
- Project plans include promotions
  - Field days
  - Use of groups broader networks
- A state wide event including both groups