

## Good turnout to Summer Cropping Field Walk at Gatton

Dr Daniel Rodriguez, Leader of QAAFI's Farming Systems Research Group

On the 12th of February 2016, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), and The University of Queensland, hosted a Summer Grains Field Walk at the Gatton Research Station.

There was a good role up of around 50 people who took the opportunity to see firsthand what the results from the numerous summer research trials being undertaken at the Gatton research facility are showing.

There were a number of researchers who presented their findings to date. Topics covered in the field walk during the morning included;

- Twin row vs solid maize configurations for high yields,
- High yielding sorghum,
- Drought tolerant maize,
- Stress wheels for sorghum and maize demos,
- The use of on-site rapid soil testing kits as an alternative to soil lab testing, and
- Using drones to support on farm agronomic research.



The Field walk included three key note presentations associated with two GRDC funded projects "Tactical agronomy for maize and sorghum in the northern region" and "High yielding agronomy for wheat and sorghum in the northern region".;

- Nitrogen efficient and heat tolerance in maize by Dr Jill Cairns (CIMMYT),
- Progress in Tactical Agronomy for sorghum in Queensland by Daniel Rodriguez (QAAFI), and
- Maize hybrids and Management for rain fed Cropping in Queensland by Joseph Eyre (QAAFI).

With more than 700 plots of sorghum last summer, 2014-2015, during the first year of trials, these projects are really looking to collect some valid data which growers will be able to use in planning crop rotations and in maximising on-farm returns. The early results have shown that there is potential for significant yield increases, up to 50-60%, from matching hybrid type and management across contrasting environments.



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