



Farm Weekly(WA)

Thursday 10/09/2009

Page: 9
Section: Supplements
Region: WA, AU
Circulation: 13745
Type: Rural
Size: 229.73 sq.cms.



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InterGrain transforms into commercial unit

CROP breeding company InterGrain has now been fully transformed from a state-based breeding program to a full commercial breeding entity.

From September 1, the Agriculture and Food Department (DAFWA) staff previously employed in the breeding and commercialisation of wheat varieties became employed by InterGrain.

InterGrain was established in October 2007 by the State Government and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

The goal of commercialising the company structure was to free WA's wheat breeding program from the normal policy and political restrictions of government and enable it to operate in a fully competitive commercial environment.

Highly successful to date, InterGrain varieties occupy 80 per cent of the area sown in WA to wheat and 92pc sown to barley.

Company chief executive officer Bryan Whan said its commercial structure had enabled InterGrain to be more innovative, flexible and compete in a business field that included rapidly evolving technologies, production and marketing sectors.

A key InterGrain objective was to

provide a business-like market driven approach with a more balanced mix of government, industry and commercial partners. It is a venture that ultimately needs to be self funding.

As the business plan has developed, InterGrain has expanded the scope of its wheat and barley breeding to the whole of Australia rather than having a sole focus on WA, as existed with DAFWA.

"We now have in place wheat and barley breeding programs with Australia-wide field testing," Dr Whan said.

"That enables InterGrain to not only develop cereal varieties well adapted to WA conditions, we can also evaluate which of our varieties are suited to Victoria, central and southern NSW, southern Eyre Peninsula, the mallee of SA and Victoria, and the south east of SA."

InterGrain varieties currently in commercial production are providing benchmarks for the industry.

Wyalkatchem and Magenta are amongst the highest yielding APW wheats. Bonnie Rock is a benchmark for AH quality.

InterGrain varieties Binnu, Yandanooka and Fortune set the benchmark worldwide for wheats suit-

ed to the Japanese white salted Udon noodle market.

InterGrain biscuit varieties, including Bullaring, are considered to be amongst the best in the world for sweet biscuit and cake production.

Baudin barley is currently one of the leading export malting quality barleys in the world with excellent malt extract and diastase. It is also highly regarded as a barley that is well suited to Shochu production in Japan and is replacing Stirling, the previous benchmark variety for that end-use.

Gairdner barley is widely grown across Australia as a malting variety that is popular with both the domestic and export markets.

Dr Whan said under the new company structure, InterGrain had been able to take on business partners such as Nuseed, resulting in more innovative and more widespread variety commercialisation.

In the past two years, InterGrain and Nuseed had been instrumental in setting up Seedpool.

Seedpool is a unique online trading site located at www.seedpool.com.au

It lists growers online who have grown authorised selected InterGrain wheat varieties.



Members of the InterGrain Group are Jason Booth (left), Ann Joynes Bryan Whan, Lena Persson, Kevin Jose, Tress Walmsley, Melissa Marcon, Robin Wilson, Chris Moore, Aaron Sachse, Cathy Burchell, Alan Harris, Steve Uetake, Brendon Rees, Reg Lance, Jen Bussanich, Damien Stubing, and Robyn McLean.