



# SOIL AND PLANT TESTING FOR PROFITABLE FERTILISER USE

## Soil sampling project to boost efficiency for crop growers

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**A NEW soil testing project by the Grains Research and Development Corporation will provide southern region crop growers with improved fertiliser management practices for their crops.**

The project is being led by Agronomy Solutions, together with Australian Precision Agriculture Laboratory, CSIRO, Landmark, Hart Field-Site Group and AgCommunicators.

The investment hopes to provide grain growers in the southern cropping region with the ability to make nutrient management decisions for improved efficiency with knowledge and confidence after it was revealed that rates of soil testing in the southern region were lower than those in other regions, particularly Western Australia.

The GRDC's manager for soils and nutrition — south, Stephen Loss, said the project would demonstrate to growers the efficiency and profitability they stood to gain from fertiliser decisions that were based on plant and soil testing.

"We think there's an opportunity for growers to save on fertiliser inputs where their residual soil nutrient levels are high," Dr Loss said.

The soil sample phase of the new flagship soil and plant testing investment is complete, with all samples successfully collected.

The project will now look to analyse and interpret the results gathered from the soil sampling to recommend and inform crop growers on their fertiliser application decisions.

"We will set up strip trials in paddocks, comparing the fertiliser recommendations made from the soil test results (informed rate) against an uninformed rate (grower practice/knowledge), a nil rate (to validate a response or non-response) and potentially a high yield-limiting rate," Dr Loss said.

### PROJECT PARTNERS:



### WITH SUPPORT FROM:

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