



PARTICIPANTS MEETING

2021

SOIL CRC
Performance through collaboration

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH (ALL TIMES AEDT)

SOIL CRC PARTICIPANTS AND INVITEES ONLY EVENT

PRESENTATIONS

11.00am – 11.45am

Paul Greenfield – Chair Soil CRC

Welcome and Overview

Michael Crawford – CEO Soil CRC

Review of achievements to date and future directions

The Hon Penelope Wensley – National Soils Advocate

Priorities for Australian soils

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

12pm – 12:45pm

Soil Carbon – What is the role of the Soil CRC?

- Lukas Van Zwieten – NSW Department of Primary Industries
- Nanthi Bolan – University of Newcastle
- Richard Harper – Murdoch University

- Helen McMillan – Central West Farming Systems
- Peter Wadewitz – Australian Organic Recycling Association
- David Minkey – Western Australian No Tillage Farmers Association (WANTFA)
- Host: Michael Crawford – Soil CRC

Building Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) is a key strategy to regenerate soil health, which in turn helps to sustain productivity and resilience of agro-ecosystems. There is also a lot of interest in the opportunities for soil carbon sequestration to help offset greenhouse gas emissions. The Soil CRC is developing a range of approaches to increase SOC content, though maximising diversity of C inputs by using cover and intercropping, understanding mechanisms of regenerative farming systems, and through maximising C stabilisation in soil from products of photosynthesis or organic amendments.

What role does the Soil CRC have in the soil carbon story?

12:45pm – 1:30pm LUNCH BREAK

1:30pm – 2:15pm

Soil Stewardship – What are the opportunities?

- Catherine Allan – Charles Sturt University
- Ben Wills – Federation University
- Mark Morrison – Charles Sturt University
- Nick Pawsey – Charles Sturt University
- Philip Guthrie – Birchip Cropping Group
- Kirsty Yeates – Soils For Life
- Host: Michael Crawford – Soil CRC

Soil stewardship refers to approaches and practices that maintain or improve the capacity of soils to function and be healthy in the long term. Investments in soil stewardship can increase productivity and provide various ecosystem services. However, soil management for agricultural production is complex, and existing markets and policy instruments fail to adequately encourage and reward soil stewardship.

What are the market, policy and other opportunities for encouraging soil stewardship?

2:30pm – 3:15pm

Soil Sensors – What's 'in' the horizon?

- Richard Doyle – University of Tasmania
- Craig Lobsey – University of Southern Queensland
- Shane Powell – University of Tasmania
- Liang Wang – University of Newcastle
- Nicole Dimos – Society of Precision Agriculture Australia

- Rob Milla – Burdekin Productivity Services
- Host: Michael Crawford – Soil CRC

In any business, measurement and monitoring is an important part of effective management. In soils, farmers are looking for cheaper, accurate and quicker ways to measure their soil performance to improve their management. There are a number of advances in sensor technology development that show potential.

What do farmers need and what are some of the promising sensor technologies in (on) the horizon?

3:30pm – 4:15pm

Farmer Groups – Working in the Soil CRC

- Diana Fear – Central West Farming Systems
- Naomi Scholz – AIR Eyre Peninsula
- Nathan Craig – West Midlands Group
- Terry Rose – Southern Cross University
- Peter Dahlhaus – Federation University
- Hanabeth Luke – Southern Cross University
- Host: Robbie Sefton – Board member Soil CRC

An important aspect of the Soil CRC is collaboration between farmer groups and research scientists. This is crucial to ensure that research is industry driven and ultimately brings benefit to farmers. Many projects in the Soil CRC are demonstrating good examples of this collaboration.

What is working well? What is not so good? What can we do more of in the future?

4:15 – 4:30pm

Michael Crawford – Soil CRC

Final discussion and Conclusion

[Register for the meeting here](#)