

## NEWS RELEASE

### *Agronomy experts sharing the knowledge of plant nutrition*

MORE than 100 agronomists from across Australia gathered to discuss plant nutrition at the recent Agronomy Community Conference in Melbourne.

Advisers were urged to adopt an evidence-based approach to agronomy at the conference which was hosted by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers as an opportunity for members of the Agronomy Community to share their experience and knowledge.

With 350 members and growing, the Agronomy Community is an online community that has been created by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers to advance the science of plant nutrition among researchers and agronomists to help Australian farmers make informed fertiliser decisions.

The day long event saw agronomists share information from their experimental work and experience in agriculture, covering topics such as carbon farming, future fertiliser technologies and improving nutrient use efficiency.

Guest speakers at the event included Dr Jim Virgona, Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, Dr Roger Armstrong, Senior Research Scientist with the Victorian DPI, Dr Helen Suter, Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Professor Graeme Blair, Adjunct Professor of Plant Nutrition, Agronomy and Soil Science at the University of New England.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers' Technical and Development Manager Charlie Walker said that the event was a huge success with agronomists travelling from as far away as Queensland and South Australia to attend.

"There are not many opportunities for this many specialists to get together to discuss and debate issues around plant nutrition so everyone really enjoyed the opportunity," he said.

"Delegates were not only able to listen to expert speakers but also had the opportunity to share information amongst their peers."

"There was a lot of information to take in but I think everyone went away with something to think about and hopefully some insights can find their way into the paddocks of Australian farmers."

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The conference was the second Agronomy Community event with the first held in Brisbane in April. Incitec Pivot Fertilisers plans to hold a number of regional events in 2012.

Other speakers at the conference included Dr Rob Norton, Regional Director of the International Plant Nutrition Institute, Associate Professor Richard Eckard, Interim Director of the Primary Industries Climate Challenges Centre, Dr Doris Blaesing, RM Consulting Group and Dr Richard Simpson, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Plant Industry.