GROUP PROFILE: Yuna Farm Improvement Group

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Group Aim:
The group aims to keep up to date with the latest developments in crop production relevant to our farms and to support the local community.

How was the group formed?
The Yuna Farm Improvement Group (YFIG) was formerly the Yuna Pasture Production Group. The group changed to the Yuna Farm Improvement Group in 1996 to help address agronomic problems of the time; better crop establishment and be a contact point for people wanting to conduct trials in the area.

What is the main focus of the group?
The focus of the group this year has been organizing a members trip to Kununarra and working with Peter Newman, DAFWA on a 'combating radish resistance' trial.

Number of members?
YFIG has 20 farming members.

Membership fees?
Each farm is charged $30 per year for membership.

What makes the group tick?
There are several areas the group is involved in. At the AGM, which is held at the beginning of each year, the group plans trials in conjunction with Agribusiness that are of importance to our members.

During the year we plan to hold two field walks/field days a year. One being a post seeding field walk and the other our spring field day, were we follow the trials and look at anything else that is interesting. We also organize other days such as looking at soil pits, comparing plane vs boom and have various guest speakers.

What trials has the group conducted in the past couple of years?
In 2006 the Yuna Farm Improvement Group will focus on managing herbicide resistance in their system in a collaborative trial with the Department of Agriculture and Food. The group’s key trial will be a five year small plot rotation trial which includes 5 treatments in different paddocks with similar problems which includes a large population of rye and radish. Each year every plot will be assessed on weed plant numbers along with an economical assessment on profitability.

Other trials the group will be hosting are barley and wheat variety trials, wide row spacing, and a chemical free liquid imported from Canada which is reported to enhance micro organisms and better soil health. For more information visit the

How do you resource the group?
The Group obtains its funds from sponsorship by RABO bank, and membership fees. YFIG currently leases 170ha which is managed in conjunction with other community groups, thereby spreading the profits and the work.

YFIG have raised money that has purchased a school bus for community use, funded social events, field days local community groups also partially funds a biannual trip away for members.

How does the group manage succession planning for the group?
YFIG has a President, Secretary, Treasurer and approx eight committee members. The President and Secretary are max three year terms.

Meetings are generally held when there is something to organize or discuss, usually every second month.