

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

16 September 2005

FUTURE RESEARCH TO BE DISCUSSED AT DRIED GRAPE INDUSTRY FORUM

Opportunities for future research will be discussed at next week's Riverlink Dried Grape Industry Research and Development Forum, to be held at 9.00am on Wednesday 21 September 2005 at CSIRO Plant Industry Merbein Victoria

Presentations on the challenges presented to the dried grape industry by issues such as climate change, future market trends, GMO's and healthy food trends will set the scene for discussion of research needs, setting priorities for future research and development with the tri-state Riverlink horticultural research network.

Forum convenor, Peter Clingeffer (CSIRO scientist and Riverlink's Viticulture Program Leader), urged members of the Sunraysia-Riverland dried grape industry to attend the forum, stating that it was important they provide their input into future research and be aware of what research is currently happening.

'Riverlink runs a research planning forum for the dried grape industry each year,' said Peter. 'As well as research planning, communication is one of our main objectives and we want to encourage greater awareness of research already happening in this region, and closer interaction between regional scientists and industry.'

Riverlink is a unique tri-state research network servicing horticultural industries in Sunraysia-Riverland. It consists of:

- CSIRO Plant Industry, River Ave Merbein Victoria
- SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Research Centre, Bookpurnong Road Loxton SA
- Department of Primary Industries, Cnr 11th St and Koorlong Ave Mildura Victoria, and
- NSW Department of Primary Industries, Silver City Highway Dareton NSW

Growers and industry members wishing to attend the forum or requiring further information can contact Merryl Whyte or Sue Mason on 03 50514500 or merryl.whyte@dpi.vic.gov.au. A program is available in the 'What's On' section of the Riverlink website www.sardi.sa.gov.au/riverlink/riverlink.htm

ENDS

Further Information:

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Photograph and Interview Opportunities

See attached program. Photographs and interviews can be arranged with presenters. Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader Peter Clingeffer is available from Friday 16 September for interview in the lead up to the forum. Please contact Merryl Whyte to arrange interview times with him or other speakers on the day.

We encourage interested members of the regional media to attend the forum (or selected sections).



**Riverlink Dried grape Industry
R & D Planning Forum**

Wednesday 21 September 2005

CSIRO Conference Room, Merbein Vic

Program

- 9.00am **Welcome by Riverlink Council Dried Grape Industry Representative**
Peter Jones, Chairman ADFA
- 9.05am **Outline of the day's activities and aims of the forum**
Merryl Whyte and Nicole Dimos (facilitators)
- 9.15am **Presentation of Riverlink Viticulture Directions Booklet**
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 9.35am Questions
- 9.40am **Horticulture Australia Ltd update on current dried grape research projects and future priorities**
Ross Skinner
- 9.55am Questions
- 10.00am **Outline of outcomes from last year's forum and resulting action by Riverlink**
Peter Clingeffer, Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 10.20am Morning Tea
- 10.50am **Review of short term research needs**
Merryl Whyte & Nicole Dimos
- 11.55am **Next Steps**
Peter Clingeffer
- 12.00pm **Introduction to afternoon session – future horticulture industry drivers/controllers**
Merryl Whyte & Peter Jones
- What is the future?**
- 12.20pm **Future Market Trends**
Andrew Mitchell, Sunbeam
- 12.35pm Lunch
- 1.10pm **Climate Change**
Peter Jones Chairman ADFA
- 1.20pm **GMO issues**
Peter Clingeffer, CSIRO Plant Industry Merbein
Riverlink Viticulture Program Leader
- 1.30pm Questions

- 1.35pm **Industry structure trends and key implications from dried grape benchmarking**
Garth Swinburn, Scholefield Robinson
- 1.45pm **What do farms look like in the future?**
Outcomes from Our Rural Landscape Focus Group May 2005
Dr Karl Sommer, DPI Mildura
- 1.55pm **Healthy food trends**
Dr Peter Clifton, CSIRO Adelaide
- 2.10pm Questions
- 2.20pm **Future Focussed discussion groups**
Merryl Whyte
- 4.10 pm Tea break
- 4.15pm **Reporting on group outcomes**
Nicole Dimos
- 4.30pm Questions
- 4.35pm **Evaluation**
Merryl Whyte
- 4.40pm **Close and next steps**
Peter Jones and Peter Clingeffer
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- 4.45pm **ADFA Executive, Horticulture Australia Ltd and Riverlink researchers meet to determine next steps**
Led by Peter Clingeffer
- 5.30pm **Close**