

registration by Feb 1
Early Bird



Barossa Arts & Convention centre • Magnolia Road Tanunda, South Australia



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
US-based microbial ecologist
Wendy Taheri



PROGRAM

PRE-CONFERENCE BBQ BUFFET

Thursday, February 18, 6.30 pm at the Weintal Hotel/Motel.

CONFERENCE

8:15–8:45	Registration
8:45–9:10	Welcome Tom Robinson, SANTFA President
9:10–10:10	Keynote Wendy Taheri ~ Get your soil biology working
10:10–11:10	Plenary session Ted Langley ~ The past, present and future of our farming story
11:10–11:40	Morning tea
11:40–12:40	Plenary session Mic Fels ~ Weed resistance
12:40–1:00	Morning Q & A
1:00–2:00	Lunch
2:00–2:50	Forums A. Wendy Taheri ~ Measuring soil biology B. Haydn Kuchel ~ Wheat varieties and agronomy for 2016 Jason Eglinton ~ Barley varieties and agronomy for 2016 C. Chris Preston ~ Pre-emergence herbicides; tricks and tips for 2016 Melissa Rebbeck ~ Frost management and mitigating the risks
2:50–3:00	Session changeover
3:00–3:50	Plenary session Graeme Anderson ~ Weather forecasting and what the models indicate for 2016
3:50–4:20	Afternoon tea
4:20–5:20	Plenary session Greg Butler ~ SANTFA R & D update
5:20–5:40	Afternoon Q & A
5:40–6:30	Machinery and UAV demonstration and drinks

POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 20 at 8.30 am until approx 3.00 pm.
From Weintal Hotel/Motel. BYO money for lunch and drinks.

SOIL BIOLOGY A HIGHLIGHT

Soil biology will feature in two of the plenary presentations at this year's conference.

The keynote address by American microbial ecologist **WENDY TAHERI** will focus on how to manage farming systems to encourage beneficial soil organisms and improve soil health and crop performance.

Soil health will also be a key issue in the presentation by Bordertown farmer Ted Langley, who will discuss practical lessons from his search for ways to improve soil health in what he describes as an increasingly challenging, varied climate.

Dr Taheri, who has a background in environmental ecology, will take a broad, global view of what is happening in agriculture before shifting her focus to farming practices and paddock management.

An expert on arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) and founder of Terra Nimbus, she is developing microbial-based options to reduce or replace chemicals and environmentally-damaging practices currently used in conventional agriculture and working on molecular tools and methods to test for AMF in soil and plant roots.

Combining best management practices and the innovative applications and methods she has developed to protect and diversify the microbial community in the soil and on foliage can transform crop production systems into carbon sinks, reducing atmospheric carbon and increasing the sustainability of food and fibre supply chains world-wide, she says.

Dr Taheri will explore what growers, government and international decision-makers world-wide can do to restore lost and degraded farmland and enable agriculture to provide the ecosystem services necessary to our daily lives.

Humankind are the architects of many of the global changes impacting on food production and so are in a position to correct many of the issues confronting global agriculture.

TED LANGLEY has embraced change in his search for ways to improve soil health and ensure his plants have strong, active root systems.

He adopted reduced tillage in the late 1980s, subsequently adding full residue retention and diversifying his rotations before changing to knife points then, in 2008, to a disc seeder and zero-till. He currently grows canola and beans and runs sheep for meat and wool in a district where the long-term average annual rainfall is 470mm 'and rapidly decreasing'.

Ted's presentation will track development of his farming system, touching on the successes and lessons learnt, with a particular focus on regeneration of soils and continual improvement of management to increase soil organic matter and improve soil health.

WA grower **MIC FELS** will focus on herbicide resistance in his plenary presentation.

Mic, who came to farming with an engineering degree and is now a developer of farm management 'apps', sows 10,000ha of crop a year in two widely separated geographic locations – near Esperance in the high-rainfall south-west of WA and in the Three Springs district about 300km north of Perth.

He will discuss herbicide-resistance issues based on his personal experiences in those very different farming environments and draw on the attributes of his iPaddockSpray and iPaddockYield farm management programs to explore resistance management options.

GRAEME ANDERSON heads the team that created ClimateDogs and The Break seasonal risk newsletter to help growers and service providers make sense of emerging climate and seasonal risk information and apply this to their local farm systems and decision making.

A science communicator and extension leader who is now a climate specialist in Victoria's Primary Industries sector, Graeme is passionate about helping agriculture and rural leaders make sense of climate so they can make well-informed decisions and get on with growing food, fibre and a vibrant future for agricultural communities.

An experienced science communicator and extension leader, he is currently the DEDJTR Climate Specialist, leading a cross-industry team that has delivered more than 1,000 sessions on climate issues to more than 24,000 people in mainly rural Australia in the past six years.

His plenary session will focus on 'climate drivers', tackle the issue of weather forecasting accuracy in south-eastern Australia and whether or not growers are looking at the right information, and attempt to answer the vexed question: 'What the hell does carbon have to do climate anyway?' He will also share his thoughts on the seasonal outlook for south-eastern Australia in terms of what's normal, what isn't and what's next.

SANTFA R&D Manager **GREG BUTLER** will present a plenary session on the latest results from trials and demonstrations run by the organisation.

One of the topics to be explored in Greg's presentation, which promises to be one of the highlights of the program, will be the crop-emergence implications of findings from a comparison of the seedling performance of crop sown with in-furrow seed lock wheels with or without soil firming with press wheels.

He will also discuss the latest results achieved and lessons learnt with the Aqua-Till liquid coulter technology and the potential for retro-fitting this innovative technology to an existing seeder, and present a cost-effective option for doing that.

Other topics to be addressed include the potential to use a Biomass-to-Energy system as an agronomic tool and the latest insights gained from work in the areas of phosphate and nitrate use efficiency.

The afternoon forum program will be headlined by **WENDY TAHERI**, who will lead a discussion on managing soils to improve soil health and maintain a high population of beneficial soil organisms, and the impact of fertilisers, tillage and management decisions on soil organisms. She will also expand on the benefits of AMF, which she says remove carbon from the carbon cycle for centuries, building it into glomalin that binds particles into soil aggregates, and so reducing erosion and increasing the water and nutrient holding capacity of the soil. AMF also improve the ability of crops to withstand drought, salinity and disease, boost crop biomass and yields and increase the nutritional value of crops while reducing or eliminating the need for agrochemicals.

Chris Preston, Associate Professor of weed management at the University of Adelaide, will explore how to get the best out of pre-emergent herbicides.

With extensive resistance to post-emergence herbicides in grass weeds in SA, pre-emergence herbicides have become much more important for weed management and it is important that they be highly effective when used. However, they are more complex to use than post-emergence herbicides and require an understanding of their water solubility and behaviour in the soil to get the best from them.

Efficacy of pre-emergence herbicides can be improved by using appropriate mixtures and ensuring early crop competition. Sowing cereals early to get rapid growth, rather than waiting for a knockdown opportunity before seeding, can help pre-emergence herbicides be more effective.

JASON EGLINTON, Barley Program Leader at the University of Adelaide and a director of Barley Australia, will draw on results from National Variety Trials, trials conducted by farming systems groups and the University of Adelaide and commercial observations for his discussion of barley variety performance and agronomy.

Jason will discuss the impact and implications of variety-specific responses to time of sowing and nitrogen management on grain quality and yield and briefly touch on the outlook for changes in barley segregation and marketing opportunities for established and new varieties.

AGT wheat breeder **HAYDN KUCHEL** will cover similar issues in his forum presentation on wheat varieties: what happened in 2015 and what's available for 2016.

MELISSA REBBECK, principal of Climate & Agricultural Support, is heading development of Frost Check, a GRDC project to develop a single source of information about frost, reducing frost risk and management of frost damage.

Her forum presentation will focus on the current 'best bet' management options for frost risk and frost damage and aspects of the Frost Check project, which will draw on outputs of the GRDC National Frost Initiative to develop information and support tools for growers. These 'tools' are likely to include a web-based 'knowledge platform', social media frost alerts and resources to help growers rapidly assess and respond to frost damage.

For all the latest on the 2016 Conference:

Official conference hashtag: #SANTFAConference

 SANTFA – Conservation Agriculture In Action  @SANOtill

REGISTRATION FORM

TAX INVOICE ABN: 85 250 602 181
Please keep a copy of this form for your records. A receipt will only be forwarded on request.

SANTFA Member (name)

Please list names of attendees below, including registering member.

Attendee 1

Attendee 2

Attendee 3

Attendee 4

Note: No refunds, but transfers permitted.

Do you agree for SANTFA to pass on your contact details to SAGIT for the purpose of receiving research results in the future? **Yes** or **No** (please circle)

FORUM SELECTIONS

Please circle one selection per attendee for the forum sessions (A or B or C).

Attendee 1 Forum A B C Attendee 3 Forum A B C

Attendee 2 Forum A B C Attendee 4 Forum A B C

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT DETAILS

Note the pre-conference BBQ buffet at the Weintal Hotel/Motel at 6.30 pm on Thursday, February 18.

Please insert the relevant number of registrations in each box

	Cost	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Member, family & employee registration(s)	\$180
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member registration/s	\$340
Sub-total		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird rebate – save \$30 (subtract \$30 for each registration paid by Feb 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Rate – \$15 extra (add \$15 for each registration paid after Feb 8)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-conference buffet	\$34
Total payment due		\$

PAYMENT METHOD

- Cheque (make payable to SANTFA)
 EFT (use your surname as a reference)
 BSB: 105 030 Acc no: 043 080 540 Acc name: SA No-tillage farmers
 Credit card VISA Mastercard

Name on credit card Expiry Date /

Card Number

CCV number Total Amount \$ Signature

Please complete the above information and post or fax registration and payment to SANTFA, PO Box 930, Berri, SA 5343 or fax (08) 8125 6502.

For further enquiries contact Leighton Pearce at SANTFA on 0427 688 028 or admin@santfa.com.au

POST-CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP (FREE)

Yes I would like to attend. On Saturday from 8.30 am until approx 3.00 pm.



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