



**Soil biology in agriculture**  
**Workshop Proceedings, Tamworth, 11-12 August 2004 - Readers' Note**

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# Soil Biology in Agriculture

Proceedings of a workshop on  
current research into soil biology in agriculture

Tamworth Sustainable Farming Training Centre

11-12 August 2004

Editor: Rebecca Lines-Kelly  
NSW Department of Primary Industries



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## **Foreword**

The idea for this workshop germinated late last year after a query from an agricultural advisory officer about the use of soil biological products on farms. A few phone calls later, several NSW DPI scientists with an interest in soils met to discuss ways to build soil biology knowledge within the department. As GRDC had initiated investment in soil biology research, we contacted GRDC's Soil Biology Initiative coordinator Greg Bender to see how we might combine forces. Greg was enthusiastic and joined our committee to develop a workshop to showcase current research and knowledge about soil biology, build links between research and extension and obtain feedback from advisors and farmers about future research directions. GRDC provided some funding, both directly and through the Soil Biology Initiative, and NSW DPI organised the workshop for 150 farmers, advisory officers and scientists. However, demand has proved much greater than spaces available, alerting us to the deep fascination that soil biology holds for landholders, advisors and researchers alike. We hope this workshop is the first of many such workshops around NSW and Australia to help us understand the life in our soil and how it contributes to productivity and environmental health.

### **Organising committee**

Greg Bender, leader, GRDC Soil Biology Initiative

Justine Cox, soil scientist, NSW DPI Alstonville

Trevor Gibson, program leader, soils and waste management, NSW DPI Richmond

David Herridge, research scientist, NSW DPI Tamworth

Kaara Klepper, soil scientist, NSW DPI Cowra

Rebecca Lines-Kelly, extension specialist, NSW DPI Wollongbar

Bob Martin, director, Tamworth Agricultural Institute NSW DPI

Greg Reid, soils advisory officer, NSW DPI Wollongbar

Peter Slavich, director, Wollongbar Agricultural Institute NSW DPI

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Our thanks to the team who organised the workshop:

Greg Bender, leader, GRDC Soil Biology Initiative

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David Herridge, research scientist, NSW DPI Tamworth

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Bob Martin, director, Tamworth Agricultural Institute, NSW DPI Tamworth

Greg Reid, soils advisory officer, NSW DPI Wollongbar

Peter Slavich, director, Wollongbar Agricultural Institute, NSW DPI Wollongbar

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