



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



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.

ISBN 0 7347 1610 9

These proceedings arise out of a workshop organised by NSW Department of Primary Industries with the generous assistance of GRDC.

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Address: NSW Department of Primary Industries, Kite St, Orange 2800.

Edited and typeset by Rebecca Lines-Kelly, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Wollongbar.

Cover designed by Soren Hjorth, Graphiti Design, Lismore.

Citation

When citing papers from these proceedings the citation is:

Author date. Paper title. In 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. Ed Lines-Kelly R ppXX. NSW Department of Primary Industries, Orange 2800.

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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

Acknowledgements

These proceedings are the product of the generous assistance and support of many people.

Many thanks to GRDC's Soil Biology Initiative for generous sponsorship of the workshop and proceedings, and funding speakers to attend.

Our grateful thanks to Lyn Cullen and Sandra Ryan for handling all the administrative details with generosity and grace.

Our thanks to the team who organised the workshop:

Greg Bender, leader, GRDC Soil Biology Initiative

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

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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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