GROUP 1  Leader: Michael Walsh

How can we create a more coherent teaching environment in Plant Production Systems (PPS) at UWA?

*UWA ranked top 37 in Agricultural Science worldwide and 1st in Australia (Shanghai Jai Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities: [http://ed.sjtu.edu.cn/ARWU-FIELD2007/LIFE.htm](http://ed.sjtu.edu.cn/ARWU-FIELD2007/LIFE.htm)).* In agriculture and related areas, there are about 150 teaching and research staff and 180 undergraduates and 125 research postgraduates.

1) **Where do we want to be in the next 5, 10 and 20 years from now in teaching in the PPS area?**
   a) We want to remain number one in the country and move up in the international ranking

2) **How can we increase our teaching quality, improve students’ learning experience and satisfaction?**
   a) Broaden research areas and don’t concentrate too much on WA specific issues. International students are looking broader research topics.
   b) Attract more international students to post-graduate studies in UWA
   c) Streamline the degree program
   d) Quality research will lead to increased numbers of post-graduate students

3) **How to enhance the broader industry context into PPS undergraduate teaching and post-graduate training at UWA?**
   a) Industry involvement in providing cadetships an industry experience
   b) Wider interaction between teaching and research staff and industry advisory groups.
   c) Encourage staff and students to participate in relevant field days.

4) **How can we better integrate research with teaching?**
   a) Involvement of researchers with undergraduate students (lecture and practicals)
   b) Involvement of researchers in lecturing to 3rd year students
   c) Financial incentives (e.g. summer work experience) to get agricultural students involved in research
   d) Communication in science??

5) **Should we revamp our undergraduate units to reflect the two basic plant production systems – extensive and rainfed and intensive and irrigated and if yes, how?**
   a) Not answered

6) **How can we increase undergraduate student numbers in Agricultural Science Programs at UWA?**
a) Improve the marketing of the agricultural related courses – names and words are important, employability of graduates, many jobs for agricultural degree graduates - immediate job opportunities after graduation

b) Population size is decreasing in the rural community so potentially more students from city based population

c) Engage the students in looking at the big picture

d) Promote the idea that agriculture and Food production are important for the future of mankind and world peace and stability.

e) Targeting city high schools to attract students into the agriculture degree with careful marketing – keynote big picture speakers and highlighting the relevance and importance of science to address future global challenges such water, land, environment, climate change, global population and world hunger.

f) Identity of agricultural produce – Who grows it? How it is grown? Where does it come from?

g) Involvement of research staff in 3rd year courses (teaching and practicals)

7) How can we increase postgraduate student numbers - domestic and international – what ratio should we maintain?

a) More scholarships from UWA and other sources – internationally

b) Tailoring masters courses to overseas students that may lead to PhD students

8) How to balance teaching and research and other commitments?

a) Not answered