

## MEDIA RELEASE

27<sup>th</sup> April 2011

### CfOC Business Plan Information and Landcare Seminar

Do you have a sustainable farming project that needs funding to get started or see it through to the next stage? Or would you like to submit a project proposal to the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country (CfOC) 2011-12 Business Investment Plan but don't know where to start?

According to Regional Landcare Facilitator Stanley Yokwe this workshop is a good opportunity for groups or organisations to learn firsthand from Mike Grasby, CfOC Facilitator just what types of projects the Australian Government is looking to invest in and kind of information you need to know before you start to prepare your proposal.

"Mr Grasby will go through the priorities and targets of the 2011-12 Business Plan that emphasize sustainable farming practices and outline what information applicants will be required to provide in their proposals for investment," said Mr Yokwe. "This will help groups or organisations looking to better develop or target their projects, valued anywhere between \$20,000 to \$1 million, to meet government priorities."

The second part of the workshop will examine the reduction in livestock emissions and the role of satellite based remotely sensed in monitoring of perennials pastures will have on the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

"Carbon Farming Initiative has identified a reduction in livestock emissions to be eligible under the offsets scheme currently being established by the Australian Government to reduce carbon pollution. Professor Phil Vercoe of the University West Australia will explain how livestock emit methane and what can be done to reduce these emissions," said Mr Yokwe.

"Satellites could also be a very useful tool for farmers to view how perennial pastures are establishing and then monitor their growth and Dr Waqar Ahmad of CSIRO will explain how satellites will eventually be an important tool in measuring pastures growth and how or soil carbon for the CFI," he added.

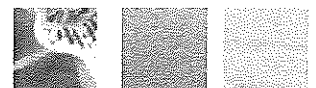
The morning workshop will end with a presentation by Rolan Deutekom Social Research Officer for the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) on the social impact sustainable farming initiatives are having on farmers in the region and the videos currently being produced by NACC to tell their stories.

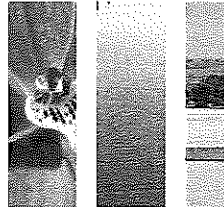
The CfOC Business Plan Information Session and Landcare Seminar is on Friday May 6 from 10am-12:30pm at the Geraldton office of the Department of Food Agriculture WA. Please RSVP your attendance by May 3, 2011 to Stanley Yokwe 9938 0105 or 0428 649 775 or [Stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au)

Ends

For further information please contact Stanley Yokwe on 99380105 or email [Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au)

*The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) is supported by the Australian Government through the Caring for our Country Program, and has support from the State Government*





## Gaining ground with subtropical grasses – plan ahead

One scientist from the Future Farm Industries CRC once said, “we don’t have any control over the weather, but we can reduce the risk of poor establishment of subtropical perennial grasses through sound weed control, using high-quality seed, and correct sowing time and depth.” This is exactly the message which the Department of Agriculture and Food, and Evergreen experts told the 51 participants who attended the subtropical grasses establishment field walk that was organised by the Northern Agricultural Catchments Council on 12 August 2010.

For sure, the most difficult challenge to get used to is that sowing the subtropical grasses is a bit of a case of hit and miss. When you sow wheat it either comes up or it doesn’t, so you know fairly early on how successful you have been. But when comes to sowing the tiny seeds of subtropical grasses it takes a while to know how successful the germination has actually been. However, this shouldn’t shy us away from introducing subtropical grasses into our farming systems.

Subtropical grasses can offer a number of benefits: they can persist through long dry periods during summer which is typical of the western Australian Mediterranean environment. They are also suited to areas in the landscape where water tables are located close to the soil surface. They persist well if they are rotationally grazed and can add significantly to filling the feed gap in autumn and early winter especially in coastal regions where spring and autumn temperatures are warm.

A joint team of local experts from the Department of Agriculture and Food, and Evergreen have recently produced 10 key steps for reliable establishment of subtropical perennial grasses that are suitable to the Northern Agricultural Region including:

1. Plan ahead
2. Purchase good quality seed
3. Control weeds and insects prior to sowing
4. Sow into moisture in late winter - early spring (depending on district)
5. Set-up the seeder to give the best result
6. Sow 2-5 kg/ha of seed
7. Sow at a depth of 5-10 mm
8. Don’t sow too fast
9. Control weeds and pests (insects, kangaroos and rabbits)
10. Defer grazing until grasses are well established

To obtain a detailed copy of the KEY STEPS FOR RELIABLE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBTROPICAL PERENNIAL GRASSES contact Stanley Yokwe in NACC office at 08 9938 0105, 0428 649 775 or [Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au); [NACC.COM.AU](http://NACC.COM.AU)

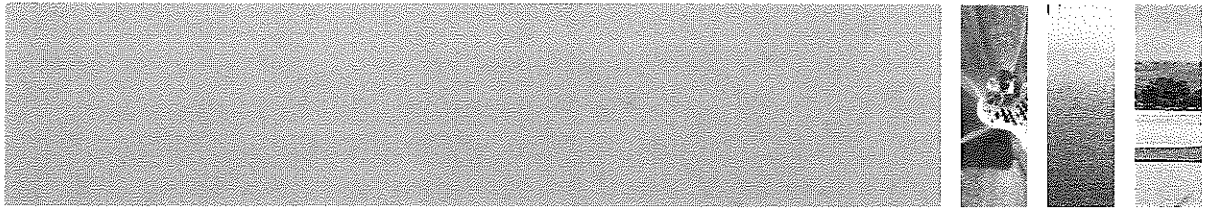
For more information about this article contact Stanley Yokwe, Landcare Facilitator on [stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:stanley.yokwe@nacc.com.au) or phone 9938 0105.

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NACC Communications - Jackie Gill at NACC on 08 9938 0102 or [jackie.gill@nacc.com.au](mailto:jackie.gill@nacc.com.au)

NACC is supported by the Australian Government through Caring for Our Country





## MEDIA RELEASE

### **\$8 million Community Action Grants for community groups**

Community groups involved in protecting the environment and natural resource management have the chance to access a pool of \$8 million dollars under the Australian Government's 2010-11 Caring for our Country Community Action Grants program.

According to the Regional Landcare Facilitator Mr. Stanley Yokwe, the grants are useful to help community groups and for farmers wanting to get involved in sustainable farming.

He said that small community groups which often get shut out if the grants are only for large projects now have the chance to apply for grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 to help them take action to protect and revitalise the region's landscape.

"I urge all community groups in the Northern Agricultural Region from Gingin through to Kalbarri to look at the criteria and consider putting in an application," he said. "As the Landcare Facilitator based with NACC which organises many of the NRM projects in the region, I can facilitate assistance with applications if it's needed.

"The funding can be used for a range of purposes, including for removing weeds, planting trees, controlling pests and field days".

Eligible community groups include:

- Community groups involved in coastal rehabilitation, restoration and conservation;
- Groups of farmers or land managers working on sustainable farming or improving natural resource management;
- Indigenous partnerships involved in protecting or improving the environment;
- Groups involved in biodiversity, environmental protection or managing natural resources.

The guidelines and hard copy application form will be available from the Caring for our Country website at [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) or by calling 1800 552 008 from **Tuesday 6 July 2010. Applications will close in late August 31, 2010.**

The Regional Landcare Facilitator is also happy to provide more info and further support P: 08 9938 0105; Mob: 0428 649 775; E: [Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au)

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Pictures

For further information contact Jackie Gill on 08 9938 0105 or email [Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au](mailto:Stanley.Yokwe@nacc.com.au).

