

Introducing Rob Walker

Business Manager - Clearfield, Seed Treatments, Rice & Pasture

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WITH a background in broadacre agronomy, agribusiness management and seed coating business management, Rob Walker's experience equips him well for his new portfolio as business manager for Clearfield, seed treatments, rice and pasture with Crop Care Australasia.



Graduating with a Bachelor of Economics from the University of New England, Armidale, Mr Walker's passion for agronomy initially led to a cotton-crop scouting position with Haslem Ag at St George in southern Queensland, servicing the district's cotton properties, plus *Cubbie Station* at Dirranbandi.

In 2000 – following three years of agronomy with McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services, and a cotton season in Texas USA with private consultant Gary Burson – Mr Walker was appointed senior sales agronomist with McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services, based in Goondiwindi.

Rob Walker: "I thoroughly enjoyed the position, working closely with clients and advising on all aspects of agronomic services – including cropping selection; nutrition, herbicide, insecticide and disease management; and whole-farm rotation planning".

During this time Mr Walker undertook extra studies, completing a Graduate Certificate in Rural Science (Cotton Production) through UNE, Armidale.

From 2002, Mr Walker managed the Goondiwindi branch of McGregor Gourlay Agricultural Services for five years.

A desire to move to Brisbane with the family led to a role managing Premium Seed Coaters Pty Ltd – a joint venture between Australian Premium Seeds Pty Ltd and Dutch company INCOTEC.

Mr Walker is looking forward to continuing his agricultural career with the Crop Care team.

Rob Walker: "Crop Care offers primary producers a vast range of chemistries that complement sustainable agriculture – providing agronomic solutions in an ever-changing industry.

"Seed treatments are a cost-effective management solution, providing a targeted approach to controlling undesirable diseases and pests. Crop Care has an extensive seed-treatment portfolio, with some exciting new developments in the pipeline.

"For Clearfield production systems, 2011 sees the long-anticipated introduction of three Clearfield Plus (two-gene) wheat varieties, specifically bred to be tolerant to the herbicide Intervix. The Clearfield Plus wheat varieties will give better grass weed control, with more flexible use rates and timing – allowing for more prescriptive weed control and superior yield potential, compared with the historical single-gene JNZ and STL varieties."

He said Crop Care had a very strong rice portfolio, with the coming crop expected to be the largest acreage the industry has seen for years.

"Given recent significant rainfall throughout eastern and southern states, pasture production potential is also looking very favourable. However a positive seasonal outlook also favours weeds, pests and disease. Crop Care has the product range and field experience to help growers with the correct solution to their agronomic challenges".

For More Information:

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