

## INVITED SPEAKERS

### THEME 1. DOES CTF DELIVER?

#### CTF – On track to our future

Don Yule

CTF Solutions – Queensland



*Don spent 35 years in Central Queensland as a researcher with the State Government, finishing as Principal Research Scientist for Central and North Queensland, 3 years in USA studying and 2 years at ICRISAT in India. The work covered soil physics and soil water of irrigated and dryland cropping systems on mostly Vertosols, developed into farming system issues and environmental impacts, established the irrigated cotton industry in Emerald, and from 1992 the technical, practical and adoption components of Controlled Traffic Farming. In 2002, Don and partners formed CTF Solutions to support CTF adoption by research into CTF development and spatial information from CTF to understand and manage variability, training for growers and advisers, and on-farm advice for change to CTF. CTF Solutions is a member of the CRC for Spatial Information and Don has been on the Committee of ACTFA since its formation in 2006.*

#### **Just do it, but do it right.**

The development of CTF during 1992 to 1998 came from a bunch of ideas that magically led to a holistic farming system. These included machinery changes to achieve controlled traffic for compaction; downslope layouts to manage runoff, erosion and waterlogging; guidance for controlled traffic and effective zero till; water use efficiency analyses and concepts that indicated much higher yield potentials; all cropping is basically similar (soil, landscape and machinery), there can be industry cross-fertilisation; adoption strategies of participatory action research, the unique farmer/farm combinations, and “have a go”; challenging all our cropping “myths and comfort blankets”; and system thinking, team work, and the “common sense test”.

The presentation examines these ideas and the basics of CTF, and then further research into implications from CTF for farming systems for our future. These include management zones; automation; measure to manage; new agronomy; market opportunities; do your own research; attitudinal change, and institutional support.

I will close with a report of a recent survey of adoption of CTF in the grains industry, barriers to adoption and some ideas to address these barriers.