



eXtension and the Australian Grains Industry

GRDC
Grains
Research &
Development
Corporation

eXtension

1. Where it comes from
2. What it provides
3. How it works
4. The proposed pilots for the Australian Grains Industry

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Where has eXtension come from?



The national internet-based educational
network in the United States
(www.extension.org)

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How has it come to Australia?

The DEPI Visiting Fellow Program brought out:

Dan Cotton – Director, eXtension USA

Craig Wood, Ph.D. – Associate Director, Content

Richard Vines

Chris Sounness

Penny Shaw

Tim Hollier

Kieran Murphy



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What does eXtension provide?



Provides web based platforms and systems for knowledge providers to network and provide information and advice to knowledge users 24/7/365

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By 2017 we each will have 5 internet devices



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What does eXtension provide users?

24/7/365 day access via any internet device



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What does eXtension provide users? Cont...

1. A **coordinated** approach in subject areas to provide on-line support in various forms:

- An “ask an expert” service

- Frequently asked questions

- Fact sheets

- Chat sessions/discussion groups

- Decision support tools/distance diagnostics

- Web conferencing/video streaming

- Education modules

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How does eXtension work?

It connects knowledge providers
(Communities of Practice)

with knowledge users
(Communities of Interest)

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Communities of Practice

“A broad range of content providers/experts (from a range of agencies), who share knowledge or competence and are willing to work and learn together and share knowledge with users via educational products and programs”



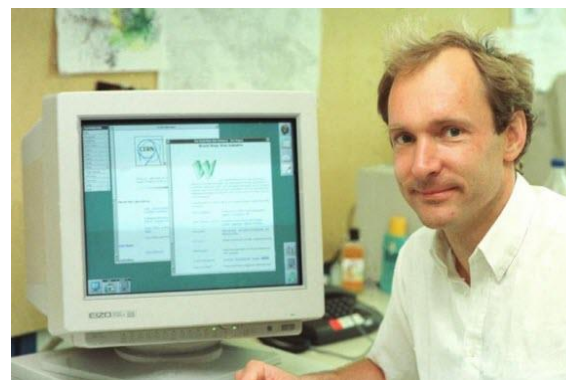
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Communities of Interest

People with common interests and issues that use Communities of Practice as a resource

Learning Network

Where Communities of Practice and Communities of Interest engage, share information and provide expertise for the benefit of both parties



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What will the pilot grains eXtension initiative involve?

A national pilot of two eXtension learning networks
(that include Communities of Practice and Interest)

Crop pathology



Crop nutrition



Via an agreement between eXtension USA, USDA,
GRDC, DEPI, coordinated through the Grains
national R, D and E implementation committee
&

Broad industry engagement/participation in the
pilot Communities of Practice and then Interest

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Thought for the day...

“If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses” – Henry Ford



“What they really wanted was a faster way to get from one place to another” – a need met

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THE OPPORTUNITY

To address the need – “A better way for knowledge providers to network/coordinate and get their information and assistance out to those people that have the questions, need to make decisions and use resources”



If you work in the pilot fields please get involved!

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To get on board or for more information

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