

Inaugural Grower Group Awards

The highlight of the Ag Excellence Alliance (AEA) 2008 Forum and dinner was the presentation of the inaugural AEA Award. Supported by the National Landcare program and Rabobank, the award was presented to SA No-till Farming Association.

The Ag Excellence Alliance is a project funded by the National Landcare program that started in 2006. Its objectives include increasing the viability of farming groups in SA by providing leadership and effective links between affiliated groups and key stakeholders, such as the NRM boards.

The Grower Group Award is an acknowledgement of a group's efforts and provides support for further development. The award was open to all groups affiliated with the AEA, which includes all Agricultural Bureau Branches in SA.

To enter a Group needed to be: demonstrating NRM principles in their region; collaborating with other groups; participating in Ag Excellence Alliance activities and fostering linkages with NRM boards.

The judges felt that of the six groups that applied SANTFA best met these criteria. They were particularly impressed with SANTFA's program of field walks and training days run in collaboration with regionally based grower groups and their project working with the communities to increase adoption and understanding of sustainable farming practices in the urban fringes of Adelaide.

On receiving the AEA Grower Group Award on behalf of SANTFA, Deb Baum, Executive Officer, acknowledge that for SANTFA one of the values of the AEA is that it works across the state and helps SANTFA link with regional groups and farmers from across SA.

In addition, two encouragement awards were presented to SPAA and Agriculture Kangaroo Island by the judges, Brian Hughes, SA State Landcare Coordinator, Richard Murdoch, Advisory Board of Agriculture and Mark Habner, on behalf of the AEA and Cecilia Woolford, Chair of the Volunteers Committee for the State NRM Council.

The awards will be used by the groups to involve group and industry members in a specific event to promote greater adoption of improved sustainable agricultural practices and to quantify and celebrate progress made.



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For more information

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