

**Research Poster from the
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ABSTRACT CAIRN-05

Commercialization Systems for Applied Crop Research in Australia

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The Australian Grain Research Development Corporation, funded by a 1% levy on grain sales and .5% matching government funding, undertakes crop research behalf or producers. Crop variety owners, can also charge end point royalties creating strong additional incentives for private crop research. A few years ago the GRDC made a decision to focus on more upstream genetic research and turn wheat variety development and commercialization over to a “private” sector that they would have a stake in. The GRDC has partnered with the State of Western Australia to form InterGrain, and has also partnered with a few multinational firms who have made investments in wheat breeding.

This Australian model of crop development has stimulated a great deal of investment in wheat research...How is it likely to evolve over time? What are the long-term impacts on research investment, productivity improvement and producer welfare? Can it deal with the issues emanating from the toll good nature of research?

The proposed research, which will be part of a Ph.D. dissertation, will examine the operation these new GRDC firms as they are influenced by partial GRDC ownership. Using theoretical models, interviews with key stakeholders, and data on current investment and pricing, the exploration will assess the impact of this structure relative to counterfactuals of continued public commercialization and wholly private investment. Feed back on the problem description and the proposed methodology will be greatly appreciated.

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