

NEWS RELEASE

Plant nutrition expert to visit Australia

Growers and consultants are being invited to attend a series of 'Nutrition Master classes' from a world leader in plant nutrition across Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland this month.

Hosted by Incitec Pivot Fertilisers, the meetings will include a presentation by Dr Rob Mikkelsen, Director of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) for Western North America.

Dr Mikkelsen is widely known internationally for his research and expertise in nutrient management.

In addition to agronomic and fertiliser technology, his research has included nutrient interactions with the environment, animal waste management and nutrient budgets.

Rohan Davies, Product Development and Research Manager with Incitec Pivot Fertilisers, said the master classes were an excellent opportunity for growers and consultants to hear about global research and development in plant nutrition.

"Dr Mikkelsen has had extensive experience working with many crops and growing conditions across the United States and more recently, a focus on horticulture in California," Mr Davies said.

"From the master classes, growers and consultants will gain key insights into new developments in fertigation and irrigation systems and nutrient uptake by plants and how this can affect quality and yields," he said.

"This visit is part of Incitec Pivot Fertilisers' vision to provide international insights to local growers and consultants and support leading-edge plant nutrition science."

As well as regional master classes, including Mildura, Deloraine and Bundaberg, Dr Mikkelsen will also be speaking at next week's national AusVeg conference in Brisbane.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers is also sponsoring Dr Ian Porter from the VIC Department of Primary Industries and Professor Richard Eckard from the Melbourne School of Land and Environment to present plant nutrition sessions at the AusVeg conference.

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Event list : Dr Rob Mikkelsen

| Location | Date | Time | Location |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|---|
| Mildura | Friday, 8 April | 10:30am - 3:30pm | Theatre Club Mildura Brewery Club 20 Langtree Avenue, Mildura |
| Deloraine | Monday, 11 April | 10:30am - 3:30pm | Deloraine Football Club South Mole Creek Road, Deloraine |
| Bundaberg | Monday, 18 April | 9:00am - 2:30pm | TBA |

Biography: Rob Mikkelsen

Dr Rob Mikkelsen is the Director of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) for Western North America.

He is widely known internationally for his research and expertise in nutrient management and has authored and co-authored numerous research publications and book chapters.

In addition to agronomic and fertiliser technology, his research has included nutrient interactions with the environment, animal waste management and nutrient budgets.

A native of California, Dr Mikkelsen earned his B.S. degree in Agronomy/Soils at Brigham Young University in 1981 and then received his Ph.D. in Soil Science at University of California, Riverside, in 1985.

He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and a Fellow in the Soil Science Society of America, a recognition given to 0.3% of the Society's members.

Incitec Pivot Fertilisers became a full member of the IPNI in May 2008, joining global fertiliser companies such as Agrium Inc, OCP S.A. and The Mosaic Company.