

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **Australian Crop Update sets the scene for record national production**

Australian cropping is heading for an excellent season end – with crop production expected to be significantly higher than average across the country – according to Rural Bank and Rural Finance's November 2016 Australian Crop Update.

The new report, launched by specialist insights team Ag Answers, provides producers and industry with a concise analysis of the current national and world crop production estimates, seasonal conditions, prices, demand and financial performance of Australia's cropping farms.

In each state, the national winter crop production is forecast to be above average and possibly the highest on record, driven mainly by an exceptionally wet winter and predicted higher yields.

At a state level, Victoria is expected to achieve the largest year-on-year production increase with improved yields in the Wimmera and Mallee regions set to double the state's crop production output compared to last year.

Crop production in Queensland is projected to be 25 per cent higher, while production across New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia is also expected to increase by between 10 and 15 per cent, although frost caused significant yield loss in some areas of Western Australia in October.

Andrew Smith, General Manager Agribusiness for Rural Bank and Rural Finance, said the increased and widespread rainfall throughout winter and spring has proved a real boon to the nation's crop farmers.

"With a 15-year high in crop vegetation density during the growing season in most parts of Australia, the potential for a bumper season is certainly there this year.

"In eastern states, crops are largely on track to deliver well above average yields despite some areas suffering excess rain and waterlogged soils. In Western Australia, frosty conditions have raised concerns about crop damage, however forecasts for the region remain higher than last year.

"Despite low wheat prices, above average production will see producers in most areas record a positive return from this season's crop."

The new report also revealed that while poor seasonal conditions in 2015/16 led to lower production rates and a six per cent decline in crop exports, the expected increase in this year's crop production levels is forecast to lead to a significant bounce back in export volumes.

To view the *Australian Crop Update*, please visit: [ruralbank.com.au/crop](http://ruralbank.com.au/crop)