



# Media Statement

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## Women in agribusiness supported with skill development

Emerging markets for high-quality and safe agriculture and food products, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, present the Western Australian agrifood sector with unprecedented opportunities for growth and development.

The Department of Agriculture and Food is working with industry to grow the markets, productivity, profitability and people that underpin the State's successful agrifood sector.

Department policy officer Nancye Gannaway said the link between skill development and profitability was one of the key reasons the department sponsored the recent Partners in Grain's (PinG) Inspire advanced business skills summit for women of WA farm businesses.

"Western Australian farm businesses increasingly rely on new financial and business structures, and technological innovations," Ms Gannaway said.

"PinG provides farm business owners with the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to manage new structures and make the most of innovations.

"The Inspire summit provided PinG workshop graduates and other women involved in farm business an opportunity to strengthen their existing skills and increase their knowledge about people; including team dynamics, employment, safety, and training and retaining staff."

Other key topics covered included strategies for overcoming adversity, mastering technology and social media, succession planning, and the use of board and governance tools to improve decision making.

Ms Gannaway said PinG was well-respected by grain enterprises and successful in the provision of business management training to agribusiness managers.

Inspire participant Tracey Cook, of Dandaragan Organic Beef, said the summit featured engaging speakers who focused on a range of topics that could be applied to any business in Western Australia.

"It was great to see so many participants from across the State attend the summit, which I think will spark positive change for many agribusinesses in rural WA," Ms Cook said.

"I came home with lots of new ideas for our business; from small things such as useful shortcuts in Agrimaster to ensuring that our business has a plan to manage an unexpected death of a team member."

Ms Gannaway encouraged all members of farm businesses to investigate PinG training on the website at [partnersingrain.org.au](http://partnersingrain.org.au)

**Photo caption:** Tracey Cook, of Dandaragan Organic Beef, Kim Tyrer, of Galafrey Wines Mt Barker and presenter of the Overcoming Adversity session, and Kate Davis, of Gairdner, at PinG's recent Inspire Summit.

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