



## **Carob Workshops in Western Australia & South Australia**

In collaboration with Carobs Australia, workshops were convened in WA and SA in September 2014 to strengthen supply chain linkages through orchard tours and indoor presentations about production, processing and marketing.

Around 50 participants in total attended, including carob growers, interested farmers, processors, machinery manufacturers and government officials. Carobs Australia planned these workshops to coincide with the Australian visit of the world's expert on carobs, Dr Joan Tous of Spain, for the International Horticulture Congress.

Another international invitee was Mrs Pippa Karsen of the Department of Agriculture in South Africa who is responsible for developing new low rainfall crops. Presentations were also given by Dr Sonya Broughton (Senior Entomologist, WA Department of Agriculture and Food) about biological control, and Professor Vijay Jayasena (Curtin University) about the RIRDC project's work adding value to carob for new markets.

The dinner speaker in the WA workshop was Mike Kendall (Midwest Development Commission) who reported on the history of new plant industries in the region, and opportunities for cooperation.

In the SA workshop, the Primary Industries and Regions SA representative supported exchanging information about carob production and processing with Carobs Australia and the RIRDC project.

During both workshops, the PowerPoint presentations by Dr Tous, Mrs Pippa Karsen, Dr Broughton and Professor Jayasena led to useful discussions amongst the carob growers about practical implementation of European best practices for carob orchard management and Australian innovations in biological control. The RIRDC project's plans were acclaimed for developing rural processing of carob syrup, fibre and new food products.