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Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

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Independent Member for Nelson

ORIGINAL PAPER

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6 June 2017

Madam Speaker
Hon. Kezia Purick MLA
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Kezia.purick@nt.gov.au

Dear Madam Speaker

Please find attached my report on my Katherine trip which I undertook on Monday April 3 returning to Darwin on April 4. The trip was taken under Clause 6.1 for travel under 6.12 of the RTD.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Wood MLA

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Wet Season Crop and Hay Field Walk



Introduction by Callen Thompson



Inspecting Cassava



Hayman Soybean



Garnet Burgundy Bean

A recent field day at Katherine Research Station was an opportunity for pastoralists to look at ways to diversify production on their properties by growing high value crops either for seed, food or hay production. Growers were given an introduction by Extension Officer Callen Thompson to what crops are grown at the research station such as soy bean, cassava and tropical pastures. Soy is a very high protein crop and has potential in the Territory as an export crop and new varieties such as Hayman show promise. Cassava can be grown as a wet season crop and has potential as a high energy and high protein cattle feed. It is poisonous (cyanide) but if dried properly the toxin is removed and it can be used safely. The tropical pasture shown was a legume with the brand name Garnet Burgundy Bean and when grown with other crops like cavalcade can make good hay. Other crops that the research station has been looking at is quinoa, peanuts, rice, hemp for oil seed, Lucerne and cool season grasses for hay. The aim of the research is to also access agronomic and economic sustainability and staff on the farm are happy to work with growers and prefer to work on the farms rather than at the station. If we are to develop the north then diversification will play an important role fulfilling that goal.

