

Canadian Seed Trade Association
Researchers East Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2008
Four Points Sheraton
London, Ontario
9:00 AM Kent Room

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ellen Sparry.
2. A motion to approve the agenda (Document 1) was carried. (Van Herk/ Hernandez).
3. The minutes of the August 2005 Researchers East meeting (Document 2) were approved as presented (Olechowski/ Harry).

John Van Herk Jr. was elected as Secretary of the Researchers East Committee.

4. Alejandro Hernandez presented the Board Liaison Report (Document 3).

On Plant Breeders' Rights, applications are now 90% horticultural. At an earlier point, about 1/3 of the applications were from field crops. There continues to be concern about the utility of PBR for field crops. The process for submission is expensive and cumbersome. There was some discussion as to whether this legislation should be part of the Intellectual Property Office.

The proposal for Western Post Registration Performance Testing being reviewed by CSTA is an effort to coordinate performance testing in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The current format is expensive. A longer term approach that is self sufficient and cost effective is needed. The federal and provincial governments have a role to play in supporting these valued information sources.

The Bar Code and Tag Working group consists of CSGA, CSI, CFIA and CSTA. A follow up meeting will be held in February.

The Government's intention to drop KVD will also require some procedural changes to PRRCG for supporting wheat varieties for registration.

The Plants with Novel Traits assessments continue to be challenged by issues. One of the problematic issues is the grandfather clause for traits that are part of the germplasm base in Canada prior to 1996. For many crops, Canada is not a primary germplasm base and often, newly discovered traits are identified in germplasm that is foreign to Canadian germplasm resources.

The Certified seed sales survey has been successfully conducted and published in soybeans and canola for the past three sales seasons.

The CSTA member fees have been increased in part to support more proactive actions.

5. Bill Leask lead a presentation and discussion on Document 4, the CSTA Position on Variety Registration Changes. Corn remains in the “exempt from registration” category. Many CSTA members continue to be critical of the slow progress on these regulatory changes.

6. The Ontario Cereal Crop Committee now has 11 voting members, a new website and a fee structure based on cost recovery that has escalated 300%.

7. The Ontario Corn Committee will host its annual tour Sept. 9-26. There is ongoing research on Fusarium and replant considerations in corn. Considerable work in developing a new Corn Heat Unit map has taken place. KCAT has a new agronomist and a new combine. There has been some investigation on height differences in corn hybrid testing and the impact of height on performance.

8. The Ontario Pulse Committee does not have a website for information dissemination. Soon Park will retire and a new Agriculture Canada position will be filled to work on dry beans. It will likely be based in Guelph. The committee proposes that navy beans be placed in Tier 1 of Schedule III and coloured beans in Tier 2. The annual meeting is February 7-8, 2008.

The OOPSC Committee has made some modifications to their testing sites and now contract some of their performance trials to the private sector.

10. On Adventitious or Low Level Presence, there has been some progress made. There is a need for risk assessment guidelines to address the different needs for seed versus food versus feed.

11. Work on an International Material Transfer continues under the FAO for exchange of germplasm. Soybeans, cotton and ornamentals are excluded from the framework of the currently developed draft.

13. There was discussion on the value and role of the CSTA Researchers East group. There was sufficient support to continue meeting annually before OOPSCC and to contribute as necessary to CSTA committees. A motion was carried (Olechowski/ Harry) to draft a letter of concern regarding proposals to reduce ornamental pesticides for municipal use. Concern was expressed that this philosophy may be considered for agricultural situations, a scenario that is untenable. The executive will draft a letter addressing this issue.

There was brief discussion on developing a technical training day for research personnel. A potential topic might be Confined Field Trial Management. Combine procedures for these trials might also be of interest.

The CSTA Researchers East will continue to meet at this venue prior to the OOPSCC meeting for the immediate future.