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Member Update

Title: NACMA CEO addresses Canada Grains Council

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Distribution

- NACMA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.

Background

The NACMA CEO, Geoff Honey recently addressed the Canada Grains Council Seventh Annual Grain Industry Symposium with the theme "Cultivating the Future".

Geoff's talk was titled Australian Grain & Oilseeds - Market and Policy Issues

Presentation

The presentation was, in essence, an update on Australian marketing issues, none of which will come as a surprise to NACMA members.

The final issue addressed was titled "The Big Issue" and related to the fact that the major grain production regions in Australia over the next 20 years will get hotter and dryer leading to yield reductions from between 5 to 20%.

This is backed by modelling conducted in Australia, Canada and Europe – all have the same conclusions. At the same time, North American production will increase due to a more favourable grain production environment.

To count the effects of a changing climate Australian farmers must have access to the very best that technology can offer. To find out more, read the presentation:

http://www.nacma.com.au/data/page/263/Geoff_Honey_CGC_Nov_07.pdf

International Grain Trade Coalition

In conjunction with the CGC meeting, the International Grain Trade Coalition held a strategy session. NACMA has been an active participant at these meetings during 2007 working with other grain exporting countries and importing countries particularly in relation to GM crops.

Although Australia doesn't have GM crops to export at the moment, we will and we are able to develop our policies/processes based on the experiences of current GM exporting /importing countries. A very worthwhile investment in the future for the Australian grain industry.