



**This newsletter covers the following items of interest:**

- Brassica seed to China
- Seed Industry Research Centre
- Seed analyst ISTA qualification
- International standard on seed
- Centennial book
- TPA & RCEP
- Parliament to be dissolved
- IHS changes: Carrot, celery, chervil, fennel, parsnip and parsley seed
- ICPR changes - Myanmar
- Industry Queen's Birthday honours
- NZ Cereal production 1million tonnes
- Register for Grains forum 19 September 2017
- Register for 2017 NZGSTA Conference
- Register for NZGSTA Workshop
- FAR Referendum
- Seed Industry Office location

## NZGSTA NEWSLETTER JULY AUGUST 2017

### Brassica seed to China

A bilateral meeting between NZ and Chinese government agriculture officials was held in China in the week of 19 June to discuss the reinstatement of NZ brassica seed to China.

MPI officials have advised that discussions are ongoing on the official assurance protocol framework.

As an outcome of the meeting further work is being undertaken on Chinese requests to incorporate pre-harvest targeted sampling and testing methodologies into the framework and to ensure the seeds being exported are free from the disease and MPI will review the pest free place of production section in the framework to ensure it is in line with the ISPM (international standard).

MPI intends to meet with the seed trade in the coming weeks to further discuss how to progress the work.

### Seed Industry Research Centre

On 19 June a founding meeting of the Seed Industry Research Centre (SIRC) meeting was held. The SIRC is a seed industry initiative to create a world class centre responsible for long term seed research in New Zealand. The formation of the SIRC is a collaboration between industry, Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) and Universities.

The SIRC has an initial board comprising representatives from the NZPBRA (David Green), NZGSTA (Barry McCarter), FAR (Dave Birkett and Nick Pyke). The board will appoint a fifth member. The SIRC is a virtual office using existing administration facilities of FAR and the Seed Industry Office and become operational on 1 July 2017.

<b>President:</b>	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
<b>Vice President:</b>	George Gerard 03 372 0864
<b>Past President:</b>	John Duncan 03 318 8514
<b>Chair: Forage &amp; Turf Section</b>	Callum Davidson 03 347 7950
<b>Chair: Vegetable Seed Section</b>	Mark Johnson 04 972 1613
<b>Chair: Grains Section</b>	Peter Burton 03 308 1265
<b>General Councillors:</b>	
Craig Graham	03 307 6979
Evan Johnston	03 344 1690
<b>General Manager:</b>	
Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
<b>Administration:</b>	
Tricia Radford	03 349 8430

All seed companies are invited to join the SIRC. For further information, please contact Ivan Lawrie [lawriei@far.org.nz](mailto:lawriei@far.org.nz) or Thomas Chin [thomas.chin@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:thomas.chin@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

### **Seed analyst ISTA qualification**

The NZGSTA supports an industry-agreed initiative to certify that seed analysts testing seeds in New Zealand for purity, germination, Tetrazolium, Moisture. etc are ISTA accredited.

At a recent International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) conference in Denver, USA (held during the week of 19 June) there was a proposal from the floor that ISTA should offer a qualification for Seed Analysts that do all the seed testing in their ISTA accredited laboratories.

ISTA has said it is “too hard to administer” the qualification “because of the language barrier”.

The universal certification would enable a recognized qualification for seed analysts and would not impact financially or otherwise on companies seeking seed testing services in NZ. Its main benefit would be that skilled seed analysts will be recognized and hopefully attract more young people to join this industry as a career. It may also encourage others to stay longer in the industry and further apply their expertise for the benefit of its clients.

[ISTA sets agreed procedures for the sampling and testing of seeds and promotes their uniform application to seed moving around in international trade].

### **International standard on seed**

Parliament’s Primary Production Select Committee has examined amendments to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for Seed and supports the global agreement. The standard provides a uniform guide to countries in how to regulate seed movement.

Objectives of ISPM is to prevent entry, establishment and spread of regulated pests associated with seeds and manage the pests. If

phytosanitary import measures are more harmonised and more predictable from one country to another, then the trade environment becomes much more predictable and certain to our seed industry. The committee’s report was tabled in Parliament on 23 June. The report can be viewed at:

[https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/SCR\\_74409/02ef3e2c36ff777a22045ca66415f93b9ecbb249](https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/SCR_74409/02ef3e2c36ff777a22045ca66415f93b9ecbb249)

### **Centennial book**

The Association has received and is currently reviewing the second draft of a manuscript which traces the history of our industry through to the present day. It begins with the all-out business war in the period around the turn of the 20th century with an entertaining account of the first 100 years of what is now The New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association

We will provide a fresh update for members at Conference .

There has been tremendous support across the membership for the book project

### **TPP & RCEP**

Whilst the USA has withdrawn from the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement there is some agreement for a TPP “minus 1” and the NZ government is championing this outcome. NZ, along with Japan have both already passed domestic legislation for TPP.

Of interest for the seed trade will be the continuing pressure on the NZ Government to keep up the momentum to implement International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV 91) obligations and maintain a positive timeline to update the Plant Variety Rights Act.

Some parts of the TPA may be reviewed to bring the agreement into force, over the coming months

Elsewhere, NZ is party to another major regional trade deal known as Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

RCEP's intellectual property chapter shows text requiring all signatories to adopt UPOV 1991.

For NZ under UPOV 1991 farmers won't lose the ability to save and reuse seed and there will be strengthened plant breeders' rights to encourage more plant breeding.

The NZ Trade Minister thinks RCEP could be signed before the end of the year, at the earliest.

### Parliament to be dissolved

Parliament's legislative session will end on 22 August for the general election which will take place on September 23.

During this pre-election period it is convention for the government to not make any significant policy decisions.

Official election results will be declared October 7.

### IHS changes: Carrot celery, chervil, fennel, parsnip and parsley seed

On 12 June MPI re-issued emergency changes to the IHS 155.02.05: Seeds for sowing affecting: Apiaceae seeds (including carrot, celery, chervil, fennel, parsnip and parsley seed) following the detection of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (Lso) pest.

The measures are:

- *“That the seeds have either been sourced from a country free from Lso haplotype C, D and E or*
- *A representative sample of 10,000 seeds has been sampled and tested for this bacteria (onshore or offshore) and found free or*

- *That the seed lot has been treated with hot water at 50 C for 30 continuous minutes”.*

### ICPR changes - Myanmar

The Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPR) for Myanmar has been updated.

From 1 August Myanmar will require the import certificate (or import permit) number to be stated in the additional declaration section of the phytosanitary certificate.

### Industry Queen's Birthday honours

In last month's Queen's Birthday Honours two industry leaders with seed connections were recognised for their achievements. **Nick Pyke**, CEO of Foundation for Arable research was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the arable industry. **Graham Kennedy** chairman of Cates Grain and Seed was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit “for services to business”.

### NZ Cereal production 1million tonnes

New Zealand farmers produced over 1 million tonnes of wheat, barley, and maize grain from 120,000 hectares in the 2016 harvest, according to latest Agricultural Production data from Statistics NZ.

#### Wheat

For the year ending 30 June 2016, 50,000 hectares of wheat was harvested, down 1 percent compared with the 5 year average. A total of 459,000 tonnes was harvested, equating to a yield per hectare of 9.2 tonnes, significantly higher than the five year average of (8.8 tonnes per hectare.)

#### Barley

In the year ended 30 June 2016, 52,000 hectares of grain barley was harvested, down 15 percent on the 5 year average. The total yield was 364,000 tonnes, or 7 tonnes per hectare, compared with 6.6 tonnes recorded for the 5 year average.

Maize grain

The area of maize grain harvested was 18,000 hectares for the year ending 30 June 2016, 20% down on the 22,300 ha 5yr average.

Land under cereal grain production in NZ covers around 120,000 hectares, or twice the area of Lake Taupo. Over 80 percent of the crops are grown in the South Island and are concentrated in the vital Canterbury province.

**Register for Grains forum 19 September 2017**

The NZGSTA will host a free half day Grains Forum, **9.00am to 3pm on Thursday 19 September 2017**, at Plant & Food Research's Fitzgerald boardroom, Lincoln. All members are invited to attend (or send a delegate from your organisation).

We have 8 different speakers on:

- Global trends & outlook
- Grain trader perspectives
- Farmer perspectives
- Poultry industry perspectives
- Malting industry perspectives
- Pork industry perspectives
- Grain quality/animal nutrition perspectives
- Shipping & transport opportunities
- There will be no charge for attending the workshop.

A registration flyer can be found at: [www.nzgsta.co.nz](http://www.nzgsta.co.nz).

More information can be received by contacting [tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

**Register for 2017 NZGSTA Conference**

Without a doubt Conference is the year's highlight occasion for the grain and seed trade.

Despite the ubiquity of email and cell phones these contact points do not completely substitute personal interaction, due to the nature of our industry and the range of individuals involved.

Conference 2017 is therefore about interacting directly with industry friends and colleagues. Join us in Wellington on 18-20 October 2017 at the Rydges Hotel.

Our theme is "*Seeds of change*", especially relevant with this year's general election. There will be a line-up of experts in their fields to address the Conference and their knowledge will be vital to the development of ideas in the conference.

Registration for Member Delegates \$750.00; Partners \$270.00 and Field Trip \$60.00 each

A registration flyer is available on our website: [www.nzgsta.co.nz](http://www.nzgsta.co.nz).

More information can be received by contacting [tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

**Register for NZGSTA Workshop – practical and implementation requirements for Exporting of Certified Seed.**

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2017 9.00am – 12.00noon**

**Venue is Hotel Ashburton**

This workshop is **FREE** and is aimed at NZGSTA Members and staff (including Seed Processors Association Members) involved in the preparation of documentation and management of stores for the export of certified seed. Please contact Tricia Radford for more details or an enrolment form.

**Entries close Friday 21 July 2017:**  
[tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)



### FAR goes to the poll

Now is the time for cropping farmers to vote in a referendum to define the future of FAR. Voting is very straight forward and can be done either on-line or by postal ballot, taking only a few minutes. It is very important that you encourage your clients to vote if they have grown arable crops, maize or cereal silage which has been harvested in the last twelve months. Their support is essential to secure the future of investment in research and extension for the cropping industry.

Under the Commodity Levies Act a referendum of growers must be held every six years to ascertain the support for the industry good activities FAR undertakes. With the range of issues facing the industry today, this is even more important than when FAR was formed over twenty years ago. Although FAR has helped ensure huge increases in yield (sometimes double) in crops such as wheat, barley and ryegrass through improved agronomy, it is in areas relating to the right to farm where FAR is currently having to provide data and options for farmers. Some examples of FAR's work are outlined below:

- Work on biosecurity is helping prevent a couple of major weeds becoming established in crops in New Zealand and helping to eradicate pea weevil from the Wairarapa.
- FAR has developed a Farm Environment Plan that is tailored to cropping farmers that can be completed without the need for a consultant.
- FAR has successfully challenged the ability of OVERSEER® to accurately estimate N

losses from cropping systems resulting in plans to improve the model for cropping systems and there is a delay until it will be required as a regulatory tool by some regional councils.

- FAR currently leads an on-going project designed to provide measured N loss values for crop systems in three regions and a range of soil types throughout New Zealand.
- FAR has identified the presence of herbicide resistance in weeds in a number of areas in New Zealand and is working with farmers to develop effective weed control options. Managing resistance is essential to protect our seed industry.
- FAR has provided information which has delayed the time until Diazinon is banned, thus allowing time for biological and cultural control solutions to be developed.
- FAR reviewed the evidence for stubble burning as part of the ECan air quality plan and this contributed to ensuring stubble burning can continue in most areas in Canterbury.

FAR has been very focussed on "Adding Value to the Business of Cropping". A positive vote by farmers in this referendum will ensure FAR can continue to do this in the future. Please encourage your farmer clients to vote.

Nick Pyke  
FAR CEO

**DIRECTIONS TO SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE,  
185 KIRK ROAD, TEMPLETON**

**SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE –**

**Available for members' use**

The Seed Industry Office is located at:

**185 Kirk Road, Innovation Park,  
Templeton, CHRISTCHURCH**

The office is handily located on the southern outskirts of Christchurch, just off State Highway 1. We are only 10minutes from the airport.

Our boardroom is available for meetings, and members are welcome to call in and re-charge a cell phone, make a fax, or just stop in for a coffee

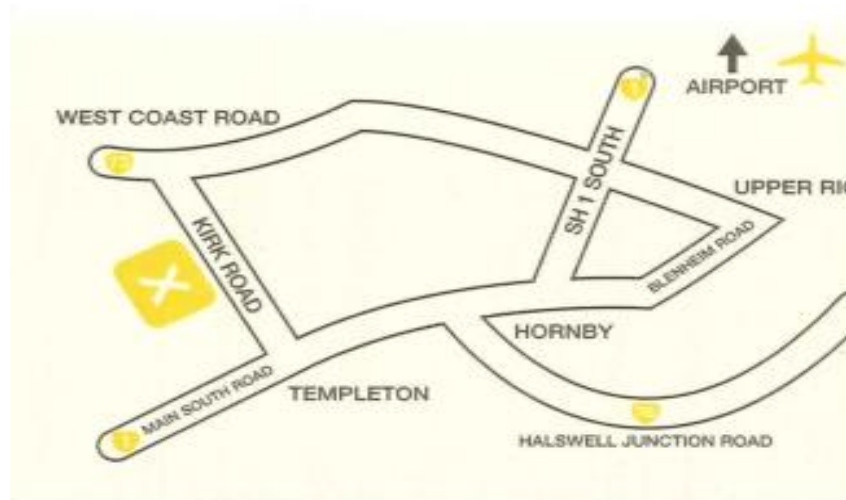
break when passing through Christchurch. Please let Tricia know if you wish to book the boardroom.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR CONTACT DETAILS:**

**PO Box 23143, Templeton 8445**

Ph: (03) 349-8430

Fax: (03) 349 8436



**Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council  
for 2017**

- **17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 – AGM & Conference –  
Rydges Hotel, Wellington**

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.