



# Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter November/December 2017

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## NZGSTA NEWSLETTER NOV DEC 2017

### Revised TPP - CPTPP

Earlier in the month it was announced that the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, following the withdrawal of the United States, would proceed as the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership* (CPTPP).

Of interest to the seed trade is that there is no change to the requirement for all signatory countries, including NZ, to adopt the rules of the 1991 Convention of International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV).

The UPOV 1991 convention is an international agreement that protects the intellectual property of plant breeders.

Elsewhere, the NZ Cabinet is due to consider a report from Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) officials which analyses and identifies issues of concern with NZ's Plant Variety Rights Act 1987.

### Forage Industry Strategy

Forages are key to the success of our \$20 billion pastoral industry.

Industry groups including Dairy NZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand, the New Zealand Plant Breeding and Research Association (NZPBRA), the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) and the Fertiliser Association have come together to develop an integrated strategy for the forage industry.

The Strategy's objective is to increase the value of forage grown on NZ farms so individual farmers are more profitable and sustainable.

The Strategy will incorporate projects including expanding the Forage Value Index into sheep and beef regions and working with Government to update regulations around gene editing to enable

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these innovative breeding tools in the plant breeding industry.

The strategy and supporting documents are available at [www.nzpbra.org](http://www.nzpbra.org)

### Glyphosate – EU decision

The European Union has refused to renew the license for glyphosate following concerns related to residue levels.

Following local concerns the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority last year commissioned a report into its possible cancer links. It found that glyphosate was "unlikely" to be carcinogenic and should not be classified as a mutagen or carcinogen under the HSNO Act.

That said glyphosate remains on the EPA's reassessment "watch list" meaning the agency is monitoring its status and international developments.

A NZ ban on glyphosate could jeopardise the country's ability to be competitive, particularly in grain and seed production.

### Brassica seed exports to China

The Association has been informed that meetings are continuing between MPI and China's Ministry of Agriculture and AQSIQ officials to resolve the ban on brassica seed exports. We understand that resolution is close but there are several aspects of the OAP that the Chinese officials have requested amendments to.

### Seed exports forecast up

MPI's latest Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries (SOPI) report shows of the importance of the our sector to the total primary industry and to the NZ wider economy.

Seed and grain exports reached \$191 million in the year ended June 2017, and was forecast to grow by 25% to \$240m in 2022.

Source: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/open-data-and-forecasting/situation-and-outlook-for-primary-industries-data/>

	2017	2018 <sup>F</sup>	2019 <sup>F</sup>	2020 <sup>F</sup>	2021 <sup>F</sup>	2022 <sup>F</sup>
<b>Vegetable seed</b>	64	70	80	85	90	95
<b>Ryegrass seed</b>	46	45	45	45	50	50
<b>Clover/legume seed</b>	23	20	25	25	25	25
<b>Other grains &amp; seeds</b>	58	70	65	65	70	70
<b>Total Value \$m</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>240</b>

### IHS review – pea seed treatments

In March 2017 the Association requested MPI review the requirements around mandatory fumigation of pea seed with either methyl bromide or phosphine.

Industry has some concerns with methyl bromide which is known to have some seed germination issues however it is useful to retain this effective fumigant option in the proposed IHS requirements.

Regarding phosphine, a standard fumigation product used internationally, this is to be retained.

The Association is pleased to advise that it has received advice from MPI (October 2017) that it will shortly initiate a review of the Import Health Standard regarding pea seed treatments.

### IHS review – Apiaceae seed requirements

In October the Association filed a written submission to MPI consulting on proposed changes to hot water treatment for Apiaceae in the Seeds for sowing import health standard. Industry was supportive of the implementation of a harmonised 20 minute minimum time for hot water treatment. The MPI proposal is in line with requirements in Australia and Japan who also allow dry heat treatment as a phytosanitary measure – at a minimum temperature of 50°C.

### Post-election Parliament

The Labour-NZ First Coalition government is now in operation and its Ministerial composition has been announced.

Of relevance to the Association is the division of the old Primary Industries portfolio into its traditional lines of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

New **Minister of Agriculture** is Damien O'Connor. He is also the new Biosecurity Minister. O'Connor is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> (out of 17) on the Labour appointments to Cabinet. MP for Ikaroa-Rawhiti, Meka Whaitiri is the **Associate Minister of Agriculture**. The National Party has Nathan Guy as its spokesperson for Primary Industries.

Elsewhere, Kris Faafoi has been appointed as the **Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister** (outside Cabinet) with responsibility for intellectual property matters (ie reform of the Plant Variety Rights Act).

New select committees have been appointed. The Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee will examine intellectual property matters.

MPs sitting on the Primary Production Committee (which looks at issues related to agriculture, forestry, fishing, food safety, and animal welfare), include:

- Hon David Bennett, National Party
- Hon Nathan Guy, National Party
- Jo Luxton\*, Labour Party [Hinds-based list MP]
- Kieran McAnulty\*, Labour Party [List MP from Wairarapa]
- Mark Patterson\*, New Zealand First [List MP, sheep and beef farmer from Otago]
- Rino Tirikatene, Labour Party [MP for Te Tai Tonga]
- Tim van de Molen\*, National Party [MP for Waikato – ex dairy farmer & rural bank manager]

- Hamish Walker\*, National Party [MP for Clutha-Southland, business advisor background]

\*new MPs

### Primary industry policy

Under the Labour-NZ First Coalition administration the following policies bode well for the primary sector, including the seed trade:

- No water tax in this term of Parliament
- Honour existing Crown Irrigation investment commitments
- Work towards a Free Trade Agreement with the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union and initiate Closer Commonwealth Economic Relations.
- Increase resourcing into Biosecurity and a plan to hold a Select Committee Inquiry into biosecurity
- Increase publicly funded R&D

On the other hand, new Government policies with potential concern for our sector include:

- Increased monitoring of hazardous substance management and disposal
- Stricter regulation of GMO approval, use, labelling etc

### Hemp seed law reform

On 12 November, the ban on the human consumption of Hemp foods was lifted by the Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.

Relevant NZ legislation ie the Food Act, the Misuse of Drugs Act, and the Medicines Act need to be updated to reflect the FSANZ amendment supporting the legal sale of low-THC hemp seed foods in New Zealand (and Australia).

The legal amendments, whilst delayed by the election, have yet to be signalled in the Labour NZ First Coalition government’s work program for the coming year.

The Government has previously said the global market for hemp seeds was worth around \$1 billion, and NZ exports could be worth \$20m.

**NZGSTA Conference 2018 - October 17-18**

NZGSTA will host its centenary Conference in Christchurch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, October 17-18, 2018.

The speaker programme will feature over 12 different speakers. Sessions are scheduled to include a political keynote address, plant law reform update; topics on future industry outlook and new technologies and well as relevant sector perspectives and much more.

Conference will bring together those involved in the industry for valuable opportunities to network and to look at current issues that are critical to the seed industry. Moreover member companies are urged to bring along staff who will form the next generation of the business management and expose them to industry and association affairs.

Registration and other details will be advised early in the New Year.

One popular event from the past will be the Golf Day. More details to follow but it is coming back and we are very excited about the format for this event.

# Centennial Book: Seeds of Success

## Samples from the book



- Marking 100 years since the founding of the NZGSPMF in 1918.
- How and why it was formed and its evolution into today’s NZGSTA
- A story of NZ’s grain and seed industry





This crop of garden pea seed is being grown for a European customer and will be shipped back to the northern hemisphere in time for their spring sowing. This is an activity that the New Zealand seed industry is very good at.

centuries for many things from a coffee substitute to a love potion. None of this seems to cut any ice with Biosecurity Australia."

So it is easy to understand the NZGSTA's first response to a 2007 development where it was advised of a change in the regulations for the import of brassica seeds into Thailand. The revised rules called for lines to be completely free of many common weeds that were in fact hard to clean out of brassica seed. The NZGSTA commissioned a literature search for the presence in Thailand of the 12 common weeds.

The other of Manning's domestic briefs, the Plants Market Access Council (PMAC), is a joint government-industry body focusing on overseas market access for plant products. It started life in 1992 as an in-house committee of MAF to consult industry on the development of new markets and maintaining access to existing ones. It was restructured into the Plants Market Access Consultative Committee (PMACC) in 1996, doing much the same thing but with eight industry members that included the NZGSTA and the NZPBFA, represented by Dudley Knox and Selwyn Manning respectively. In 2001 it took its current name. A later PMAC reorganisation saw David Melhuish take over both roles, bringing representation directly back to the NZGSTA Executive Council where it remains today.

As may be obvious from our story thus far the NZGSTA has had representatives on a raft of government/industry boards and committees down through the years but SQMA, being the virtual guarantor of the quality of seed being sold to farmers and exported from New Zealand, and PMAC with its vital work in maintaining New Zealand's access to its various offshore markets, are perhaps the most important of the half-dozen or so domestic bodies it is represented on today.

**Publication Date: 2018**

**Book launch: 2018**

**Conference – Christchurch**

**Orders taken early 2018**

**WITHOUT YOUR HELP THIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE**

We acknowledge the support given by our member companies who have made this book project a reality.

We will be moving into the production stage early 2018 so there is still time if you haven't pledged any money yet towards this worthwhile project.

Please contact the Seed Industry Office for a pledge form to be emailed to you. Send your request to [tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

**Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2018 to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:-**

- **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**
- **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**
- **24<sup>th</sup> May 2018**
- **25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**
- **16<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

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

The Seed Industry Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays from 21<sup>st</sup> December until 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Thomas and Tricia wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to working with you in 2018.

