

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CANADIAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION
"It all Starts with the Seed"

The Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) and our 125 company members would like to thank all Members of Parliament and Senators for your continued commitment to science-based decision making and your ongoing efforts to address climate change and protect the environment.

Seed is the start of the agriculture and agri-food value chain; it is estimated that 9 out of every 10 bites of food taken by people around the world start with the planting of a seed. Seed is also crucial to the food and beverage manufacturing industry, the second largest manufacturing industry in Canada, with shipments valuing **\$105.5 billion** in 2014 and employing **246,000 Canadians**.

The health and well being of the seed industry is directly tied to the environment, a more profitable seed industry means a healthier environment and vice versa. We are committed to being good stewards of the land and place a great deal of emphasis on environmental sustainability. Our members provide tools for farmers that allow them to improve the condition of the land on which they operate. Through continuous innovation in the seed industry, farmers are able to reduce inputs, maximize resources and increase yield and nutrition. The seed industry is doing its part to protect the environment by:

- **Reducing GHGs and Fuel Use:** Modern agriculture technology decreases the amount of fuel burned on farm through reduced-tillage and the use of cover crops increases biodiversity while helping with carbon sequestration. These innovations and others reduce Green House Gas Emissions by **29 million tonnes** per year and conserves **194 million litres** of diesel fuel used in tractors.
- **Reduced Land Use:** The use of Certified seed, biotechnology and crop protection products reduces land use by optimizing yield per acre. Without access to these technologies, Canadian farmers would need **50% more land** to produce the same amount of crops.

CSTA is involved in several environmental initiatives. In 2015, CSTA developed the *Guide to Treated Seed Stewardship: Best Practices for the Safe Handling, Storage, Transportation, Use, and Disposal of Treated Seed*. The Guide helps those who work with treated seed to create and implement their own stewardship plans, comply with provincial and territorial regulations, and maintain operationally and environmentally sound operations. Read the Guide at <http://cdnseed.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Guide-to-Treated-Seed-Stewardship-May-20151.pdf>.

CSTA is a proud member of CleanFARMS Seed Bag Collection Program Steering Committee, which provides farmers with a long-term solution that keeps their bags out of landfills and demonstrates the agricultural industry's commitment to doing the right thing for the environment. CSTA is also a member of the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops, which was formed in 2015 to facilitate cross-commodity collaboration on sustainable agriculture issues and opportunities facing grains sector participants.

CSTA values our close working relationship with regulators. We look forward to continuing to work together on science-based regulations that protect health and the environment, while also ensuring that businesses have the opportunity to continue innovating in order to deliver success for Canadians.

CSTA represents the interests of 125 companies engaged in all aspects of seed: plant breeding and research; production; processing; marketing and international trade. CSTA members work in over 50 different crop kinds, using organic, conventional and biotechnology production systems and range from small family businesses to large multinational firms. Trade Winds National is an e-newsletter written for Canada's decision and policy makers. It is meant to provide insights on issues of importance to the seed sector and to encourage dialogue. Contact us for more information:

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