



INAUGURAL MEETING KICK-STARTS NATIONAL FORUM ON SEED

Welcome to the **National Forum on Seed's** first issue of FORUM. FORUM's mandate is to inform readers through open and transparent dialogue about the activities of the newly formed **National Forum on Seed**.

Our goal is that FORUM's distribution list includes as many seed stakeholders as possible. FORUM will also be posted to our website: www.nationalforumonseed.com

We encourage and welcome your feedback. Please contact us by email at: FORUM@nationalforumonseed.com or by telephone at: **613-230-2117**.

The **National Forum on Seed** is supported by a secretariat which can be reached as follows:



Secretariat Office, National Forum on Seed
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Upcoming National Forum on Seed activities:

- Next meeting scheduled for October 2005, details to follow
- Variety Registration Working Group – June 22-23, 2005, Ottawa

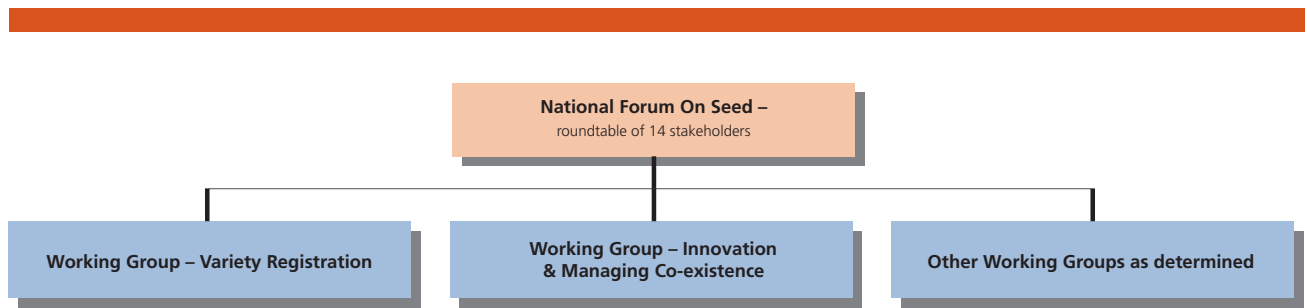
Participants at the inaugural meeting of the new **National Forum on Seed** held April 6th and 7th in Winnipeg took ownership of a slate of essential activities, established a process that will proactively solicit all viewpoints and laid out its mandate.

With a mandate to facilitate broad consultation and consensus building on all proposals for seed policy or regulatory change, the **National Forum on Seed** clearly defined its role.

Mandate of the National Forum on Seed

"To facilitate broad consultation and consensus building on all proposals for seed policy or regulatory change."

National Forum on Seed participants agreed that a number of Consultation Working Groups will be set up, each to focus on clearly defined and specific objectives and with a broad participation from multiple seed stakeholders. The working groups will feed into the **National Forum on Seed** – presenting their recommendations on policy or regulatory changes after careful examination of an issue. Each working group will be mandated with a clearly defined issue.



In turn, the **National Forum on Seed** will ensure that participation and membership in the working groups are inclusive, all voices are consulted and heard, important questions addressed, consensus sought and, if not achieved, that divergence is well documented. However, while the **National Forum on Seed's** role is to ensure lively discussion around the recommendations, its role is not to change or modify the substance of the recommendations from the working groups. Upon completion of this process at the National Forum level, presentations will be made to the target government policy and decision makers in order to put in motion the desired change and updates.

Strong consensus, based on solid reasoning, will be the National Forum on Seed's most powerful tool to influence policy and initiate and lead the delivery of that consensus.

Struck to ensure that farmers and industry can count on a policy environment that keeps pace with innovation, is timely in its responses to changing conditions and fully able to seize emerging market opportunities, the **National Forum on Seed's** vision is for Canada to continue to be at the forefront of global agriculture with the ingenuity of our farmers and the technology tools they need to harness that potential. An open dialogue with participants throughout the seed environment will ensure the process is moving forward and build towards that common vision.

Membership and Attendance Structure for Meetings

Member Organizations of the Forum

- ✓ Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- ✓ Canadian Seed Growers' Association
- ✓ Canadian Seed Trade Association
- ✓ Canadian Wheat Board
- ✓ Commercial Seed Analysts Association of Canada
- ✓ CropLife Canada
- ✓ Grain Growers of Canada
- ✓ l'Union des Producteurs Agricoles
- ✓ Plant Breeder Communities
 - ✓ Private
 - ✓ Public
 - ✓ University
- ✓ Provincial Government Representative East
- ✓ Provincial Government Representative West
- ✓ Registered Seed Establishments

Each member organization has one (1) seat at the Forum Table. However, any member present may send additional attendees. These additional attendees would include that alternate Forum member and others who might assist the official representative with advice or information during the meetings.

Ex officio members of the Forum

The following Ex Officio members will attend the meetings. They will have seats at the table and may contribute to the discussion to provide advice, guidance, or support to Forum members.

- ✓ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (2 seats at the table)
- ✓ Canadian Food Inspection Agency (1 seat at the table)
- ✓ Canadian Grain Commission (1 seat at the table)
- ✓ Executive Directors of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association; Canadian Seed Trade Association; the Canadian Seed Institute; and the Grain Growers of Canada

Invited guests

These will include guests invited to join the Forum Table for a particular meeting based on topics covered. The guests may be invited to make presentations or serve as resources for particular topics.

General Attendees

Interested stakeholders are welcome to attend the Forum meetings. Opportunities will be provided in the Forum meeting agenda for stakeholder attendees to express their views to the Forum on the topics under discussion.

Please note: The National Farmer's Union was invited to join participants for the inaugural meeting and has an invitation to join the **National Forum on Seed**.