



Mr. Monty Doyle  
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Seed Sector Review  
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January 16, 2005

Mr. Glyn Chancey  
Director, Plant Product Division  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 348W  
Camelot Court – 59 Camelot Dr.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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**RE: Government Feedback on the Proposed Seed Sector Consultative Process**

Dear Mr. Chancey:

Further to the recent approval of ACAAF funding, the members of the Seed Sector Alliance are now able to begin implementation of the action plan for the Phase II of the Seed Sector Review.

The heart of Phase II involves the creation of an ongoing national consultative process for the Seed Sector. Last year's project demonstrated the need for a national table or forum which could convene various seed sector stakeholders to discuss three kinds of issues of interest to federal regulatory bodies. These include:

- Nascent government proposals where an integrated, comprehensive approach to broad Sectoral input, or feedback would provide efficiency of process and substantive value in the content. This would be of direct benefit to the government in satisfying its regulatory requirements for consultation on matters of policy or regulatory change. An example might be variety registration.
- Regulatory issues for which the sector wishes to take a lead in proposing to government a case for regulatory change. An example

might be support for government actions that will create a supportive environment for innovation.

- Policy or regulatory issues that are contentious in nature and for which the sector needs and wants to have a forum or discussion over the longer term. An example might be the concept of requiring all seed to be sold by variety name.

Since the publication of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Seed Sector Review we have worked to develop a model for the above referenced consultative process.

The hope is that this consultative process will be recognized by government as a primary consultation channel on all policy and regulatory matters related to Canada's seed sector. Such recognition would be based on such factors as:

- the scope of members of the Round Table
- the integrity of the consultation process
- the openness to input from diverse sources, and equally, ease of access by diverse interests
- the transparency of decisions, reports, and information
- the legitimacy of the consensus process created and the degree of consensus achieved on important issues.

In this connection, the object of this letter is to request the assistance of the CFIA in 3 ways:

- The first is to request your initial review of the attached "meta" consultation document titled " Consultation Document on the Proposed National Seed Sector Consultation Process". This document has been sent to a broad range of stakeholders requesting their comments and feedback on the proposed process. Replies are requested by end of Jan 2005. We will then work with the feedback to finalize the Terms of Reference, membership and consultation and consensus development methodologies. We would also appreciate if you would convey this attachment and request for review to your AAFC colleagues as you feel appropriate. We plan to have the inaugural meeting of the NSSRT in either late March or early April.
- The second is to request the continuing support of the CFIA Seed Section for this project as we enter the implementation phase. The benefit of support for the SSR secretariat, and section staff participation at steering committee and advisory committee meetings was fundamental to the progress made during Phase 1. It will be no less important in Phase 2. We would again propose to support travel costs of CFIA attendees as we did last year. I will ask Bob Montgomery to provide further details to your office.
- The third is to request your support and cooperation for the Seed Sector Alliance Workshop on Variety Registration to be held this week in Ottawa. As outlined in my previous letter to you, such consultative

processes would normally be formally undertaken by the proposed NSSRT. However, as this body has not yet been formally established, this workshop is being organized by the Seed Sector Alliance members. However, the structure, scope of invitations, and process of this workshop will reflect the methodology and values proposed for the formal consultative process.

We believe that this workshop will yield useful output related to the reform of the Variety Registration Scheme. This will hopefully prove useful to the CFIA as it shapes its proposal on Variety Registration for further consultation in the new year. It will also provide the new NSSRT with a baseline of Sector direction and consensus on the issues in question. Looking ahead, we see this as a good platform for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of consultation under the full NSSCP aegis later in 2005.

In closing, on behalf of the members of the Seed Sector Alliance I wish to convey our appreciation for the continued support of this important project by the CFIA and the Minister, Mr. Mitchell, and we look forward to your timely feedback on the attached process proposal.

Yours truly,

Monty Doyle  
Project Manager