CSIDC Annual Field Day - 2016

The *Annual Field Day and Trade Show* at the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre was held at Outlook, Sk. July 14/2016. The theme was *Recognizing the 2016 International Year of Pulses*.

A large crowd in excess of 400 people attended the event. Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association representative Roger Pederson welcomed the crowd and introduced our special guest The Hon. Ralph Goodale. He brought a welcome from the Government of Canada and spoke of the value of water in adaptation to a climate change. Jean Harrington, a Director on the Board of Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, followed with a message to the audience regarding the importance of pulse crops in Canada and Saskatchewan and to the irrigation industry.

The morning technical tour included highlights and discussion of research at CSIDC: irrigation water management, potential new crops, pulse crop irrigation, horticulture crop production, and fusarium management. The afternoon session consisted of two concurrent tours: 1) Pulse agronomy - soybean, fababean, lentil, dry bean and pea, and 2) Horticulture - tree fruit and berry production, higher value vegetable options, high tunnels, etc.

A trade show/exhibit area was part of the day, with displays and representatives from a wide range of stakeholders including Ag input and equipment suppliers, financial services, industry, university, government, and commodity associations. It was very well received by those in attendance.

Dr. Al Slinkard, renowned plant breeder and innovator known for his work in the pulse industry including bringing lentil production to Saskatchewan in the 1970`s, was honoured for his work in support of the irrigation industry. This included chairing the CSIDC research advisory committee from 1986-1996. Al was very proactive in encouraging diversification away from the wheat economy of that time under irrigated conditions and providing viable options for producers to consider. Research on dry bean, fababean, pea, chickpea, lentil and spice crops are high on his list of priorities. Dr. Slinkard addressed the crowd present and provided thought provoking remarks.

It was very good to have Director General, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, present and interacting with attendees.

Special guest Dr. Al Slinkard describes development of the pulse industry in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan-grown lettuce at Prairie Fresh Food Corp. display.

Registration and door prizes.

Great weather to chat after lunch, before more talks and tours.

Jean Harrington, Sask. Pulse Growers Director, discusses the pulse industry in the Province.

1 The Hon. Ralph Goodale discusses adaptation to climate change.

Display from local irrigation equipment supplier.

Two more display booths under the big tent.

Roger Pederson, local producer and SIPA representative, welcomes the crowd to the Field Day.

Erl Svendsen describes activities at the Saskatoon Research and Development Centre.

Evan Derdall describes his work with variable rate irrigation.

Our sponsors.

Eric Haaland demonstrates a soil moisture monitoring device to the tour groups.

Dr. Dale Tomasiewicz describes pulse crop irrigation study.

Dr. Jazeem Wahab describes his potato studies.