

Mustard 21 Project Update

By Tom Burwell
and Pete Desai

Mustard 21 Canada Inc. (M21) was incorporated as a not-for profit organization on May 28, 2009. M21 operates as an independent corporation with its own Board, presently chaired by Mr. Tom Burwell who is Director of CMA and SMDC.

M21 started in July 2007 as a Canadian Mustard Association (CMA) and Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission (SMDC) initiative. Over the past two years M21 has been very successful in securing funding under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Agriculture Policy Framework Brokerage program to develop a strategic plan for Canadian mustard.

M21 developed a strategic plan in the first phase (2008), which identified very promising new opportunities for the growth of a value-added mustard industry in Canada. The two key opportunities, besides the traditional condiment market, were the use of mustard meal as a bio-pesticide in niche markets such as golf course turf and the use of mustard oil as a feedstock for industrial products such as biodiesel additive.

M21 has been working with industry partners to address the above two opportunities since April 2008. M21 is also developing a long-term mus-

tard breeding program to address the important aspects of increasing yield and improving varieties through better germplasm development.

Mustard 21 Canada Inc., as a new incorporated organization, is now pursuing four key aspects that will help address long-term mustard goals that will make the mustard industry much more competitive.



The four areas of focus are:

- i) mustard yield
- ii) weed control options
- iii) new dedicated industrial mustard crop (*Brassica carinata*)
- iv) evaluation of the use of mustard meal as an anti-microbial in processed foods.

M21 has developed a plan to address these four areas and is applying to the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Growing Forward program for support. Both

CMA and SMDC will be supporting the application to implement a long-term breeding program for mustard in Canada. A Viterro and AAFC research team will also play a significant role in addressing these important areas.

The work of Mustard 21 Canada Inc. is made possible through financial support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Agriculture Policy Framework program.

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