

Mustard 21 Project Update

By Pete Desai and Tom Burwell

Mustard 21 (M 21) is now into its first year of implementing our value-added product strategy - a strategy developed during 2007-08 with the support of AAFC Science & Innovation program. The SMDC Board, along with the Management of M21, has been working diligently to implement the strategic priorities identified by M21 to create value for mustard in Canada. An area important to the producer and SMDC Board that is now being tackled is the production, breeding and agronomy of mustard. This is critical for maintaining mustard production in the prairies. Initial meetings with federal and provincial representatives and breeding groups have been very promising and both SMDC and M21 will develop an action plan for this key priority area prior to the 2009 breeding season.

One outcome of the AAFC Brassica review in early 2008 is the approval in AAFC to hire a mustard breeder to be located in Saskatoon. AAFC is actively seeking a breeder to fill a very important position to address yield improvement and mustard variety development.

M 21 has received support from Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (ACS) Board, as part of the AAFC's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-food (ACAAF) program, to develop

products from mustard oil for industrial markets. The ACS approved Mustard Product Development Project is worth \$280K. This project will support development of products for the biodiesel additive and biolubricant markets with ACS contribution of \$182K and partners' contribution of \$90K.



Biodiesel additive and biolubricant were two niche priority markets flagged as value-added opportunities for new application of mustard oil. The development work will be done in collaboration with the research community in Saskatoon and industrial partners who will eventually commercialize their own proprietary product lines. The workplan is now being implemented by M21 as part of its strategic action plan.

The use of mustard meal as biopesticide and soil amendment, the other value-added opportunity, is also being developed with the support of AAFC Science and Innovation bridging program. The initial use of mustard meal, espe-

cially from oriental and brown mustard, will be as a soil amendment and fertilizer for which a Canadian label was recently approved by CFIA for a product developed by Mustard Products Technologies Inc. (MPT). The other use of oriental and brown mustard meal is as a natural biopesticide, now undergoing product testing

and market evaluation. The use of mustard as biodiesel additive, biolubricant, soil amendment and biopesticide are very exciting new non-food opportunities that should create value in Canada. The commercialization of these products will help in the total utilization of mustard seed and thus address SMDC Board's vision to create new value for Canadian mustard.

SMDC Board and M21 will continue to keep you apprised of the programs that are in progress and of new ones as they come on stream and get implemented.

