



#### **SPANZ Newsletter April 2015.**

Welcome to the April edition of the SPANZ newsletter. In this edition we will talk about results from the last vegetable harvest in New Zealand, quoting on your 2015/2016 vegetable seed production requirements, the recent field trip by APSA members, free trade agreements and the visit by Chinese officials to New Zealand.

#### **2015 New Zealand vegetable seed harvest season.**

As I write this newsletter the 2015 Canterbury vegetable seed harvest is drawing to an end. By now most of the crops have been harvested with some smaller areas of radish and carrot seed to be completed.

The weather conditions experienced during this seasons harvest could be best described as nearly perfect the hot, dry and long days we experienced during the harvest ensured good quality crops that will have lower than the average seed dressing losses. Unfortunately the same excellent harvest conditions also ensured a slightly lower than the average vegetable crop seed yields, however in general it's been another good season.

Seed cleaning plants throughout the Canterbury region are currently very busy processing the harvested vegetable crops for our many clients throughout Asia.

#### **2015 / 2016 Vegetable seed production area.**

Following the recent harvest all thoughts now turn to the upcoming 2015/2016 vegetable crop contract season. SPANZ is a small, but professional, Canterbury New Zealand based company devoted to growing a wide range of crop types for clients throughout Asia and the rest of the world and looks forward to any enquiry you may have, for more information on SPANZ please check out our web site [www.spanz.co.nz](http://www.spanz.co.nz)

We would welcome any enquires from clients wanting a quote for their vegetable seed production for the 2015/2016 season. For more information please contact [stephen@spanz.co.nz](mailto:stephen@spanz.co.nz)



### APSA study tour of New Zealand's seed production areas.

Recently managers from 17 different companies attended a study tour of New Zealand's major seed production area hosted by members of the New Zealand Grain and Seeds Trade Association (NZGSTA).

Visitors that attended came from China, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam and were given an intensive three day tour of the Central and Mid Canterbury seed producing regions focusing on vegetable seed production... it certainly was no holiday.

Over the three days tour members were shown nearly every aspect of our vegetable seed industry that included inspections of seed quality testing facilities, farms, seed processing facilities and much more. The tour certainly created a tremendous amount of interest with many journalists covering it closely.

Feedback from everybody involved with this tour was extremely positive, it particularly pleasing to have Dr Tom Burns APSA's director and John Clewey APSA's communications officer attend.

### Trade access South Korea and India.

#### *South Korea*

During the latter part of March this year New Zealand's Prime Minister Mr John Key and South Korea's President Park Geung-hye sealed a free trade agreement between the two countries. During the next 10 -15 years most products between the two countries will become tariff free.

New Zealand's Trade Minister Mr Tim Groser said South Korea has a population of about 50 million and an annual GDP similar Australia but was currently a relatively small investor in New Zealand. It was one thing he hoped the free trade agreement would change.

#### *India.*

Following the recent elections in India the newly elected government is giving cautious signals that free trade negotiations could soon restart after a hiatus since July 2013.

Although the pathway to concluding the FTA with India is likely to be a long and challenging one for both parties it is felt that New Zealand companies could play a significant role in the modernisation of India particularly in agriculture.

### High Level Chinese officials Visit.

Members of the NZGSTA in conjunction with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) recently hosted a delegation of 7 high level officials from China's Ministry of Agriculture and the Administration for Quality Supervision.

The delegation reviewed New Zealand's export phytosanitary certification system for seed exports as well as visiting plant breeding farms, vegetable seed production areas and seed processing plants.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Finch, Company Director.