



# asian seed congress 2015

Hopefully by now you have all returned home after attending the APSA seed conference held recently in Goa, India between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November. By all accounts it was a very successful and well run conference and was a credit to the organising committee represented by both APSA and the National Seed Association of India. It was also fitting to hold the conference in the country that contains 20 % of all APSA members and has been noted that the conference has already been held in Delhi twice and Hyderabad once before.

Goa was chosen for its relaxed atmosphere which provided a great backdrop for all the business conducted during the conference.

I know from the New Zealand experience it's always great to link up with likeminded seed people from throughout the world and to do so in a place so culturally, scenically and climatically different from home is always a bonus...bring on next years conference.

## SPANZ New Zealand seed production.

Right now is the busiest of times for all the staff of SPANZ. Inspecting the different crops several times each month, supplying our clients with accurate crop reports and ensuring all our crops are grown to the highest possible standard makes the day and weeks go by quickly for all. To date the season in the major crop growing areas of Canterbury has been relatively good with most of our crops set up for a good yield. However as we all involved in farming know that until it's "in the bag" there are many hurdles to jump to ensure a good crop...some we have control over others we don't.

Also we now starting to talk to our seed processors about the procedure we need to go through for the different crops coming into their facilities following the harvest from our farms.

SPANZ has for a number of years have used "Hinds seed cleaning" as our preferred seed processor and have just finished our pre harvest meeting with them to ensure the high standard of transition of our client's crops from our crop growers into the processor is seamless. It sounds a relatively simple thing to do however there are a huge range of issues that need to be dealt with at a very high level of professionalism to ensure our clients' needs and wants are meet.

Hind's seed cleaning has two plants spread throughout Canterbury which are located at Hinds about 1&1/2 hours south of Christchurch, the other plant in Darfield about 45 minutes west of Christchurch. Both plants are specialized seed cleaning plants with a huge investment in drying, processing and storage facilities backed up with high quality and very experienced staff. For us it's the experience of the staff that attracts us to use them for our clients. As you will see from the below picture seed cleaning plants are complex and to get the best out of them you need very professional and highly experienced staff.



Some of this seasons Canterbury crops looking good.

It's little wonder that Canterbury is one of the world's largest carrot seed producer in the world when you see crops like this one.



This Red beet crop is well manged, grown on very good soil types and is set up for a high yield potential.



I'm not sure if the backdrop to this crop will add much to its success but it sure is a nice place to work in.



Xmas greetings.

Gosh another year is about to pass us all by and one wonders where they go, I suppose it's a symptom of being busy!!!

However shortly our festive season will be upon us and as this will be the last SPANZ newsletter for 2015 I'd like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our staff and their families to wish you and all your families a very merry Xmas and happy New Year. We look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.