



News release
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The Plant Bio-Industrial Oils Workshop in Saskatoon features 23 presenters

(Saskatoon, SK) – Australian scientist Allan Green says current industrial manufacturing is heavily dependent on petroleum, “a finite resource that contributes to undesirable increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide.” He says that plant crops offer a feasible, sustainable alternative.

Green is Deputy Chief of Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and one of 23 speakers gathering at the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon March 6-7, 2013 for the 7th Plant Bio-Industrial Oils Workshop, hosted by Ag-West Bio.

Bio-industrial oils are used to produce earth-friendly plastics, chemicals, fuels and other industrial products, adding value to agriculture in a sustainable manner while reducing dependence on petroleum. There have been significant advances in the industrial oilseeds sector, with a great deal of research happening in Saskatchewan. New oilseed crops are being developed here specifically for industrial use, such as *Brassica carinata* and *Camelina sativa*.

“Exciting work is being done on tailor-made crops for bioproducts and biofuels, including the feedstock that was used to fuel the world’s first civilian bio-jet flight,” says Wilf Keller, president and CEO of Ag-West Bio. “Saskatchewan has the expertise, which is leading to commercially viable technologies. PBIO offers an opportunity for our local researchers and business people to learn from and share ideas with others from around the globe. In our role as an industry catalyst, Ag-West Bio works to help people make those important connections.”

The two-day event covers a variety of topics, with industry experts sharing the latest details of new scientific research, along with the challenges of commercialization. Speakers include “The Green Chemical Blogger,” Doris de Guzman who will talk about reducing price volatility for feedstocks; Colleen Christensen (Executive Director of the Feeds Innovation Institute in Saskatoon) will discuss the registration process for new feed products; Patrick Crampton (Agrisoma Biosciences) will talk about the activities of this Saskatoon research company, which supplied the feedstock for the first civilian flight using 100% renewable fuel; Per Hofvander (Swedish University) will explore the potential of tuber crops as producers of oil. Tom Beardslee of Verdezynne will present a technology behind sustainable nylon products.

For speaker biographies and presentation abstracts, please visit our event website:

<https://event-wizard.com/PBIO2013/0/welcome/>

Jackie Robin
Communications Director
Ag-West Bio Inc.
Tel: 306-668-2656
Cell: 306-229-0391
jackie.robin@agwest.sk.ca

About Ag-West Bio

Ag-West Bio is a membership-based organization at Innovation Place Research Park in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The company works as a catalyst for developing partnerships and industry growth in the bio-economy through investments, aiding strategic alliances, providing regulatory advice and communications. Funding for Ag-West Bio is provided by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. www.agwest.sk.ca