

Report to the
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

To the 89th Annual General Meeting of the
CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL
The Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
March 10, 2011

**To the President and Members of the
Canadian Horticultural Council**

The Research and Technology Committee met last year at the CHC's AGM in Quebec City. At the Quebec City meeting the Research and Technology (R&T) committee had a presentation from Dr. Jim Brandle, CEO, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre: *Canadian Horticulture Research and Innovation: A Snapshot of the Future* and Marcus Janzen, Chair, Science Advisory Committee: *Journey to A Cluster Submission and Next Steps*.

The Science Advisory Committee (a subcommittee of R&T) continued its work to assemble and evaluate research projects under AAFC's Science Cluster. A total of \$11,275,000 encompassing eight projects (four project areas) was applied for on January 31, 2010. On May 4, 2010 the Canadian Horticultural Council's proposal for an Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture was awarded funding by AAFC in the amount of \$3,600,000 (encompassing four projects areas: Tree Fruit, Small Fruit, Potato, and Water) for the period of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013. Under the terms and conditions of the program, industry is required to provide \$976,000 in matching funds. This represents a significant contribution to the sector.

The work of SAC and CHC's staff required several conference calls and participants should be congratulated for their work under tight timelines and changing circumstances. SAC's expertise and insight was evidenced by its members (listed below) and past Chair, Marcus Janzen.

Regional Appointments:

- BC Joe Sardinha, BC Fruit Growers' Association
- Prairies Tracy Shinnars-Carnelley, Peak of the Market
- Ontario Harold Schooley, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association
- Québec Claude Laniel, Conseil Québécois de l'Horticulture
- Maritimes Vasantha Rupasinghe, Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Commodity Appointments:

- Tree Fruit Brian Gilroy, Ontario Apple Growers
- Small Fruit Gary Brown, Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia
- Potatoes Jeff Bronsch, Potato Growers of Alberta
- Vegetables André Plante, Association des jardiniers maraîchers du Québec
- Greenhouse Linda Delli Santi, Vancouver Island Produce

A number of future issues facing horticulture need to be followed closely. These need to be monitored closely to coincide, where CHC can, with government initiatives. Health, environment, and safety & traceability are at the forefront. We are positioned well to be active in these areas as

we are one of the food groups that can truly say “eat more” and still be healthy, good for the environment and safe with the good work of the CHC’s Food Safety Committee and CanadaGAP.

At first the global economic downturn and Canada’s repositioning on research appears to be a constraint to research; however if CHC explores new initiatives like health and environment that are consistent with governments and consumers it may open up financial opportunities in other departments.

I look forward to working with our excellent CHC staff and membership to find ways to use the new technological tools available to advance horticultural research.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hill
Chair, Research & Technology Committee
March 10, 2011