

**Report of the  
SEED POTATO SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE  
POTATO COMMITTEE**

**To the 89th Annual Meeting of the  
CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL  
Westin Ottawa, Ottawa (Ontario)  
March 11, 2011**

**To the President and Members of  
The Canadian Horticultural Council, and  
To the Chair and Members of the Potato Committee,**

During the past year, the Canadian seed potato industry has been involved with many issues that had or continue to have substantial impact on our sector. International trade controversies, regulatory structures and requirements, competitive position and the environment are a few of the items that continue to affect the general development and evolution of the industry and raise the financial risk bar for individual growers.

The Seed Potato Sub-Committee and its members:

- Attended the annual **NAPPO meeting**
- Monitored and provided advice on **Canada-Mexico seed potato trade issues**, particularly the pre-clearance program and general workplan
- Are monitoring and providing advice to CFIA on the Canada/US Management Plan for Potato Viruses that Cause Tuber Necrosis. Scientific authorities continue to recommend PVY be managed as a species and not as individual strains, post harvest tests be mandatory for all seed and Elisa be used on PVY symptomless varieties, that national standards for PVY tolerance be established (US is recommending 2% on seed being recertified and 10% on commercial), the sample size be standardized at 400 tubers, and a scientific & advisory panel be established to recommend sampling & testing procedures.
- Are monitoring **regulation requirements for the export** of seed potatoes to a number of destinations
- Continue to work with the CFIA-industry advisory committee (Chaired by Deb Hart) on the **Canadian Seed Potato Quality Management Plan** with the purpose to revise and upgrade the Plan
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- Have focused on **private varieties/lines** by asking CFIA to **verify** that an applicant (for seed certification) potato grower is officially authorized by the protected variety owner or agent to seek seed certification; the official CFIA response dated January 04, 2007 is that the enforcement of intellectual property rights granted through PBR's is the responsibility of the grantee (variety/line owner or agent). Any verification process would

be considered beyond the mandate of CFIA. Private variety owners/agents have also asked CFIA to provide the names of seed growers producing their varieties in Canada and CFIA has been unable to do this. The private variety owners/agents are being asked to apply to the Access to Information process and are being provided some information from government

- Are actively involved in a **BRR National Working Group** that has two major project initiatives underway that is under the direction of Dr. Tracy Shinnars-Carnelley:
  1. **Evaluation of Biocides and Disinfectants** for the Effective Sanitation of Potato Storages and Equipment
  2. **Development of a national BRR Sanitation Protocol & Manual** that will have a number of elements including cleaning & disinfecting, risk, biology & management of BRR, detecting & diagnosing, representative sampling, prevention of BRR, disposal of infected material, cleanup after BRR is found, record keeping, etc. Linkage to the Biosecurity initiative is being considered
- Are involved in the **Canadian Potato Export Market Development Strategy Working Group** that will focus on identifying opportunities and undertaking specific initiatives (chaired by Mary Kay Sonier)
- Participate in the **Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) Working Group** and the **PCN Task Force**
- Last met on December 13, 2010 in Ottawa

Committee members have been very committed in providing sound advice and direction on the above noted issues and many others that suddenly surface. Everyone is committed to establishing the appropriate groundwork to enhance success and prosperity in the Canadian seed potato sector and maintain leadership in world seed potato trade.

In closing, I would like to thank representatives of CFIA for their hard work and input on many of the issues and participation on our committee and to representatives of AAFC for their continued assistance and financial support for specific initiatives. I would also like to thank Mark Drouin for his hard work and determined efforts in managing many of the seed potato issues. Last but not least, many thanks to all committee members who have and continue to participate in working groups and attend organization functions on our behalf.

Respectfully submitted



Robert Watson,  
Seed Potato Sub-Committee  
March 11, 2011