

COUNT DOWN TO WAGGA INTERNATIONAL SAFFLOWER CONFERENCE



SAFF AND SOUND: Oilseed specialist and International Safflower Conference organisers Trent Potter (left) and Don McCaffery, are very happy with the newly emerged safflower trials at the Murrumbidgee Demonstration Farm, Coleambally.

PHOTO: Sue Knights.

Delegates from across the globe will converge on Wagga Wagga in November for the 7th International Safflower Conference, and growers and advisors are encouraged to attend either the field day or the entire conference.

Australia has been given a unique opportunity to host the conference from 3 to 6 November, with the theme 'Safflower: unexploited potential and world adaptability'.

Conference organiser, Sue Knights said the conference will kick off with a field day for growers and advisors at Murrumbidgee Demonstration Farm, Coleambally on Monday 3 November.

Those attending will be able to inspect current safflower varieties and agronomic practices and have the opportunity to interact with international experts on the crop.

Presentations will be held on the following days focussing on plant breeding, agronomy, quality, products and marketing.

“Interest in the conference has been strong with the submission of over 100 abstracts from around the world,” Dr Knights said.

“The vast majority of these are in the agronomy and breeding sessions, but interesting abstracts have been received in the quality and products sessions.”

Papers have now been received from over 14 countries including Canada, USA, Italy, Turkey, India, Iran, Kenya, Nepal, Morocco, the Czech Republic, Lebanon and Mexico

The 5 November will also form the annual Australian Oilseed Federation forum. The provisional line up for this day includes marketing sessions presented by Lorin DeBonte, Director of Research and Development, Cargill’s Specialty Oils who will speak on the global oil market and David Hoffsten, the Sales Manager of Adams Vegetable Oils who will address safflower markets.

Presentations on the use of safflower oil for biodiesel, nutraceuticals and industrial products will also be held during that day.

“There will also be a suite of papers on the biotechnological advances in safflower. The afternoon will showcase the production of safflower in various environments around the world,” said Dr Knights.

“This is a significant event which has been underwritten by the Australian Oilseeds Federation, for Australia’s small but growing safflower industry and will give our industry access to knowledge of international research, marketing and production of safflower.”

Sponsors include Devexco International, Grains Research and Development Corporation, Cargill, Goodman Fielder, Adams Australia, Twynam Agricultural Group, Cootamundra Oilseeds, CSIRO, Keith Seeds, Wagga Wagga City Council and the EH Graham Centre.

Dr Knights said that safflower is seen as an opportunity crop in Australia, often used for spring sowing if seasonal conditions are suitable. The later sowing of safflower gives more time for weed control and can help spread sowing and harvesting workloads.

Safflower’s deep roots and ability to extract water from deep in the soil profile allows reasonable yields even with little post-sowing rain and the crop helps reduce the build-up of cereal diseases. The deep root system also allows for the potential to extract nitrogen and other nutrients from a lower depth in profiles than cereal crops. International research has also shown that safflower can be produced in no-till systems, she said.

Additional information about the conference can be found at www.australianoilseeds.com

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