

Special Interest Groups for Field Crops & Cover Crops
Summary Notes & Action Points from Meeting on 16 March 2017

A Joint meeting of the APSA Special Interest Groups for Field Crops (SIG – FC) and Cover Crops (SIG – CC) was organized on 16 March 2017. Dr. P. Sateesh Kumar (Chair: SIG – FC), Mr. Tahir Saleemi (Co-Chair: SIG – FC), Mr. Bhupen Dubey (Chair: SIG - CC), Mr. Muhammad Asim Butt (Co-Chair: SIG – CC), Ms. Brenda Dossey (President, APSA), Ms. Heidi Gallant (ED, APSA), Dr. Narendra Dadlani (Director Technical Affairs & SIG Secretary), Ms. Duangchai Pancom (APSA) and Mr. Steven Layne (APSA) joined the meeting. Following is the summary of the discussions and the action points that emerged:

The main agenda for this joint meeting was to discuss the preparations for the proposed APSA Study Tour to Australia. The following was decided in this regard:

- a. The group agreed that the members will greatly benefit from participation in this proposed Study Tour with the exposure to the advances, particularly for the forage crops and field crops like Canola, wheat, pulses, etc.
- b. The tour should be organized in the third week of August, to coincide with the Annual Seed Business Convention of Australian Seed Federation (ASF) being convened in Adelaide on 22-24 August 2017. The delegate registration fee for the event should be included in the costing for the Tour.
- c. Inclusion of the ASF Seed Business Convention in the Tour will provide a major business development opportunity for the participating members.
- d. The tour itinerary should include, besides the visits to the research and seed production farms of seed companies, interaction visits to public sector organizations like CSIRO, GRDC and Queensland University. A visit to the modern facilities like Advanced Automated (using robots) Seed Cleaning facility (near Adelaide) should also be organized. Interactions to understand the End Point Royalty (EPR) payment system being used for IP protection and use of sorghum as a resource for producing bio-ethanol in bio-refineries, should also be explored.
- e. Mr. Bhupen and Dr. Sateesh agreed to share contact details of persons from CSIRO / GRDC and Queensland University.
- f. The Tour should be for a total duration of ten (10) days and include a maximum of fifteen (15) member participants.
- g. In view of the large size for the country and time limitations, the tour should be planned to cover areas around Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane only.
- h. Ms. Brenda kindly agreed to develop a Tentative Itinerary for the consideration of the group.

- i. Mr. Bhupen agreed to connect the APSA Secretariat with Mr. Nick Gardener, Advanta manager in Australia, who has agreed to provide the necessary support.
- j. Ms. Heidi agreed to contact the ASF Secretariat for working out the logistics support details.
- k. It was proposed to include research scientists from public institutions and policy makers in the tour. However, the group felt that this was a larger issue aimed at promoting better industry – research – policy interface, cutting across the various SCs / SIGs and will have major resource (funding) implications. It was agreed that inputs / suggestions may be invited from various SC / SIG Chairs / Co-Chairs and a proposal in this regard be prepared for the consideration of APSA EC.
