

# Wheat symposium 1992: Opening comments

Howard Bezar

New Zealand Institute for Crop & Food Research Ltd., Private Bag 4704, Christchurch

The Agronomy Society over the last ten years has run six special symposia with a focus on important crops. Although the emphasis has always been on the management of crops we have always seen the marketing aspects as an integral part of the production process.

The books which we have published following these symposia on such crops as lucerne, barley, maize, potatoes, peas and grain legumes have become important sources of reference for students farmers and others involved in seed and brokerage industries.

Some of these books have run into several reprints and some of the papers have become landmark papers in their field.

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together leading industry spokespersons, those at the forefront of research and some leading growers.

This will enable us to focus on the current 'state-of-play' in the industry and what is currently limiting production and quality.

You will note in the programme we do not treat quality as a separate issue. This is because it isn't, it is an integral part of all decision making whether it is choosing a cultivar, considering fertiliser, irrigating or controlling disease.

Only by occasionally taking stock of the progress we have made can we identify current limits to production, quality and marketing.

We will have achieved our goal today if when we leave this room we can all feel we have learned a 'thing or two' and can look forward to more progress and prosperity for our respective businesses.