

3. PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES AND AVAILABILITY OF NEW CROPS

Convenor - W.A. Jermyn

We had a wide ranging discussion on production opportunities and availability of new crops. There are plenty of possibilities, it's a matter of winding them up a bit. We wondered which one we should concentrate on. We looked at the summer legumes:- crops like Adzuki beans and mung beans that are in high demand in some of the Asian countries.

We also had a cursory examination of some of the vegetable pulse crops and Alec McErlich from Watties talked about some of the very real difficulties in processing some of these crops and we wondered if that might be a suitable area of research. After discussing things that have been tried and come to nothing, we began to focus on identifying 3 crops that were really worthwhile and we came up with the following:

- 1 A re-evaluation of the domestic feed market for peas and lupins as a very real opportunity. We had an animal feed manufacturer who wondered aloud how production might be enhanced because he made the comment that production of grain legumes for the feed industry is always in short supply. We will need to address mechanisms for enhancing that supply.
- 2 The second is the enhancement of the winter legumes, i.e. lentils and chick peas. Lentils are growing in Canterbury but they are probably not reaching anywhere near their potential and that is an area that everyone needs to address. The other is chickpeas - both *Kabuli* and *Desi* types probably have very large potential and capability of production in Canterbury. These might be priority areas for research in the future.
- 3 It was harder to get a third crop. We talked about peanuts, and soya beans in the North Island, given the suggestion that there's a large market for full fat

soya bean that has been consistently not met for 10 - 15 years, and that traditionally the United States cornbelt grows corn and soya beans in rotation. We have corn or maize in the North Island, but we do not have the soya bean component in that rotation - we ought to examine why not.

So we settled on three items as something to have another look at either as an industry or as researchers or merchants in the grain legume industry.

Question: Can I just elaborate that what we were really suggesting was rather than look at the varieties of peas which we have at the moment we should look at other high yielding cultivars so that at a lower cost per tonne, a higher yield will still have the same gross margin.

Comment: There is another aspect to the price of crops in New Zealand and that is the structure of the industry as a whole. I think that is something that industry, the farming industry and the end users, have to tackle in a positive way and look at just where the money is going in production. I think it is a major economy and some major opportunities in terms of what crops can be used.

Jermyn: I appreciate that comment. I think it is one of the major objectives that we had in deciding to hold this workshop at this time is to look at ways in which the grain legume industry in New Zealand can be improved with benefits for all the parties.

Further comment about price, the group did identify that a high yielding field pea as opposed to a quality grain pea might be a worthwhile objective. It is not something that we have strongly addressed in the past and those of us in that game will have to look at it. In the session on peas, a person said they did not care about quality, as far as they were concerned it was the number of tonnes per hectare.