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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **REMOVAL OF KVD IS A POSITIVE STEP FOR INNOVATION**

**Ottawa, Monday February 11, 2008** – With the decision to remove Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) as a requirement for western wheat variety registration, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has demonstrated the government's commitment to innovation in Canadian agriculture. The Canadian Seed Trade Association welcomes the decision, and looks forward to a strong role in the government's innovation agenda.

"Members of the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) have heard the calls from the livestock and bio-fuels sectors for new varieties to meet their specific needs," says CSTA's President Tim Welbanks. "We are confident that seed innovators can meet those needs and with the removal of KVD from the variety registration decision process, we can start the work to bring new and exciting varieties to market."

Private sector seed innovators are important investors in crop research and development in Canada. In 2007, the private sector invested more than \$56 million, and plans to almost double that within 5 years. However, the regulatory environment, including KVD, in western Canada served as a deterrent to investment in western cereals and resulted in declining private sector investment.

"The removal of KVD as a requirement for all classes of wheat will allow seed innovators to begin the work of testing, registering and increasing seed of new, higher yielding, higher starch wheat varieties that may not be visually distinguishable from Canadian Red Spring Wheat and Canadian Amber Durum," says CSTA's First Vice-President Jeff Reid. We want to be ready to offer these varieties to farmers when the grain industry is ready to handle them."

"Many of CSTA's members were part of the process to remove KVD for Ontario wheat and are very pleased with the positive impact it has had on the Ontario wheat industry," says Mr. Welbanks. "We would like to offer that experience to the grain industry in the west, and to government and regulators to help ensure that the transition to a new 'KVD-free' environment is a smooth one."

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*Headquartered in the nation's capital, the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) represents the interests of 132 corporate members engaged in all aspects of seed research, production and marketing, both domestically and internationally.*