



NEWS RELEASE

CSTA Welcomes Cairns Group Ministerial Commitment to Science and Science Based Trade

Ottawa, Monday September 12, 2011 - The Canadian Seed Trade Association welcomes the strong commitment of the Ministers of Cairns Group countries to science and science-based trading rules, and to innovation in world agriculture.

“We are very pleased with the focus of the Ministerial Communiqué on science and innovation,” says CSTA President Alexandre Mailloux. “World agriculture has to feed and fuel a rapidly growing world population and at the same time find solutions to address the challenges of climate change, and protect our precious natural land and water resources. Innovation is the answer and science based systems are important for innovation to occur.”

The Cairns Group Ministerial Communiqué supports “science based approaches to resolve market access issues, and to further cooperation at the multilateral level on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical regulations including food labeling requirements”. The use of non-science based measures like these continue to have negative impacts on innovation and trade. CSTA appreciates that Ministers of the important trading nations that make up the Cairns Group have recognized this and have instructed their officials to find ways to work at the international level to address them.

CSTA especially appreciates the leadership that was shown by Canada to organize an international meeting on the unintended low level presence of genetically modified material in agricultural exports. “This is extremely important for our seed trade members, and we applaud the Minister for his leadership,” said Mr. Mailloux. “We look forward to working with the Minister and Government officials on this critical issue.”

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Headquartered in the nation's capital, the Canadian Seed Trade Association (CSTA) represents the interests of 130 corporate members engaged in all aspects of seed research, production and marketing, both domestically and internationally.