

A GLOBAL HUB

An Alberta delegation had a strong presence during the 2012 Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC) recently held in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Dr. Stan Blade, CEO of Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions, was an invited speaker who described the exciting Canadian bioproduct landscape.

With a theme of “New Science, New Technologies, New Products”, Blade described how bioeconomy opportunities are being developed through partnerships between the private sector, the research community, and funding agencies.

A number of Alberta bioindustrial examples were presented that featured agricultural, forestry, and



municipal waste as feedstocks for the production of unique products.

Canadian foundation

Calgary will be the host for the 2013

ABIC event. More than 600 delegates from six continents are anticipated to gather in Alberta to discuss the newest agricultural biotechnologies.

Delegates will also learn how the sci-

ence is being translated to address the world's most pressing issues of food and energy security, water sustainability, climate change, and population well-being.

The ABIC has a Canadian origin, but has now been held in locations across the world, such as Germany, South Africa, Australia, Thailand, and Ireland. Calgary previously hosted the event in 2007.

The conference has the unique characteristic of bringing together the science and business communities to better understand the rapid developments in the biotechnology sector.

In addition, it brings together the people who can translate new science into the products, practices, and policies that will ensure agriculture and food industries can remain profitable as well as competitive.

Making a difference

During the celebration of National Biotechnology Week, from September 14 to September 21, 2012, it is important to recognize that biotechnology tools are making a difference in the lives of Canadians.

Alberta Innovates Bio Solutions is investing in research that will further improve canola vegetable oil quality, enhance the health benefits and taste of meat products, develop new products derived from agriculture and forest fiber, as well as invest in projects that ensure food safety.

The benefits of biotechnology are already in the hands of producers and consumers — the future is full of remarkable potential as new ideas and tools are used to address global needs.

SOURCE: ALBERTA

INNOVATES BIO SOLUTIONS

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