

BioWorks eyes Indian Mustard

BIOWORKS Australia Pty Ltd, an emerging WA biodiesel producer, has undertaken wide plantings of Indian Mustard in the 2007 season with the company contracting farmers across the wheatbelt for production of the crop.

The company is using the 2007 season to trial two varieties and bulk up available seed for the 2008 season where it is planning a far more extensive production of the crop.

According to BioWorks' managing director Craig Lovelady, Indian Mustard will be a significant contributor to the feedstock requirements for the company's biodiesel production.

"The crop offers some unique advantages over canola and presents a much lower risk profile than the other oil seeds in the wheatbelt," Mr Lovelady said.

BioWorks is a WA company, promoting decentralised renewable fuel production, and promotes regional development of biodiesel production.

The company has recently established facilities in Bethania, SE Queensland, Capella in the Atherton Tablelands of north Queensland and Dubbo in western NSW.

The Company has a joint venture with the Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation for the development of biodiesel production facilities in the Pilbara and is the final planning phases for its facility in Pingelly, where it will be establishing its oil extraction plant for the Indian Mustard seed.

The main challenge for the future of biodiesel is the development of suitable oilseed crops to increase feedstock production and Bioworks see significant opportunity for alternative crops across the agronomic zones.

The commercial scale trials of Indian Mustard (*Brassica juncea*) have been undertaken in conjunction with Margaret Cambell from the University of Western Australia's Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA). Indian Mustard is a sister crop to canola, but has a few distinct advantages as a biodiesel feedstock crop.

These include greater drought



The BioWorks biodiesel production team outside the company's O'Connor factory.

tolerance and suitability to 300-450mm rainfall areas, higher yields in most situations, lower fertiliser requirements and greater resistance to disease, including Blackleg.

Because of its drought tolerance, Indian Mustard has significant potential as a break crop

in lower rainfall wheat regions of Australia.

It also has a much stronger seed case than canola, providing greater flexibility at harvest time.

The crop does not need to be swathed, providing significant cost savings.

BioWorks will be taking

registrations for the production of Indian Mustard for the 2008 season at the Dowerin field days and interested parties may wish to contact Daniel Evans from the company who will be at the BioWorks' display, to discuss the attributes of the crop and plans for 2008.

Protect your tinkering

INVENTORS and tinkerers will get plenty of advice on how to protect ideas at the Lord and Company stand at the field days.

According to the company, the number of innovation, national phase entry and complete patent applications in WA rose substantially over the past six years.

Company principal Kelvin Lord said most patent filings were from private enterprise, particularly enterprises that were emerging or small to medium sized.

"A good percentage came from the agriculture

sector where there is a sound understanding of the patent process," Mr Lord said.

"It also is a sector where innovators recognise the value in obtaining patent and trademark protection."

The role of a patent and trademark attorney lies primarily in the registration of intellectual property rights on patents, trademarks and industrial designs.

Over the years, Lord and Company has helped many businesses and individuals

in the agricultural sector protect ideas and reap the rewards of their latest inventions.

The team of qualified attorneys at Lord and Company encourages inventors to secure their intellectual property rights and take advantage of the firm's offer of a free initial consultation.

Now in its 28th year, Lord and Company is handling a surge of local work, reflecting the strong spirit of innovation residing in WA.