



Challenges of Herbage Seed Production

David Birkett

New Zealand



Introduction

The past 10 years has seen significant change in the environment (both environmental and regulatory) that our seed production operates in.

We tend to look at our industry from within our own silos, e.g. growers, seed merchants, traders but rarely as an whole of industry.



Challenges in NZ

- Climatic changes
- Crop input restrictions
- Profitability
- Public's farming perception



Climatic Changes

- Wetter
- Drier
- Warmer
- Colder
- Windier
- **More variable and intensive**



Climatic Solutions

- Better irrigation systems
- Better drying systems
- Increased harvesting capacity
- Increased storage capacity
- More resilient farming systems



Crop Input Restrictions

- Impacting our direct food crops
(Agri chem)
- Southern hemisphere follows
northern hemisphere
regulations
- Nutrient limitations

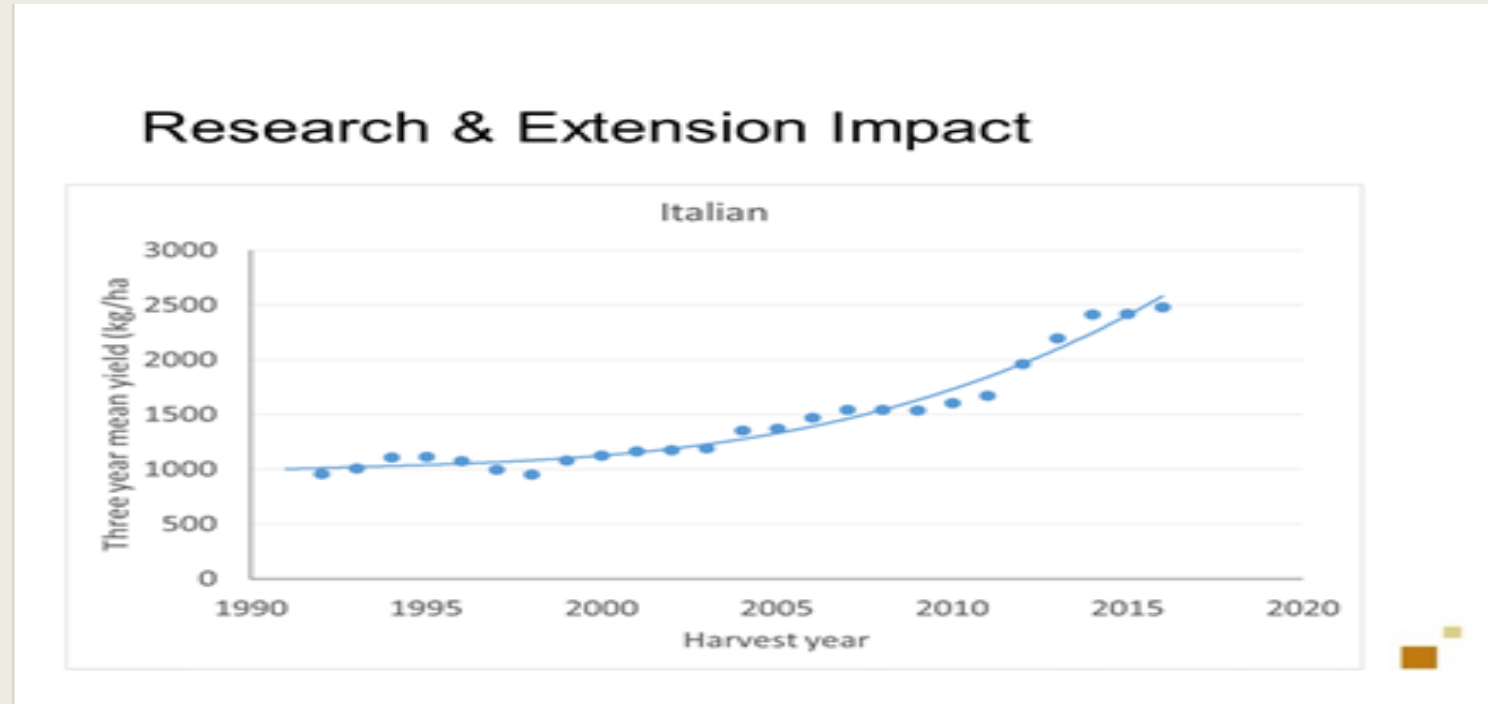


Profitability

- Costs of production
- Return on investment of research
- Ensuring profitability gains remain at the production end of the value chain



Research Outcomes





The value chain needs to understand each others challenges better.



Summary

While there are plenty of challenges to growing herbage seed crops, there are always solutions that can alleviate most of them. Two of the most important ones are the continued research of more resilient farming systems and enhanced communications between growers and seed companies.

Thank You

David Birkett

djbirkett@xtra.co.nz

