

Biomass Canada Cluster presence at the AgSmart event in Olds Alberta

Dr. Shahab Sokhansanj from Biomass Cluster participated in a major farmers producers event held on August 13 and 14, 2019 in Olds Alberta. Olds College, Agri-Trade Alberta and Alberta Innovates were the major organizers and sponsors of the AgSmart event (Figure 1). Over 2,000 people attended the inaugural two-day hands-on demonstration and education expo focused on agriculture technology and data across the sector – how to gather data, and how to use the data to



Figure 1. AgSmart was held at the Olds College, Olds Alberta August 13-14, 2019



Figure 2. DOT driverless (autonomous) sprayer demonstrated at the Ag-Smart event

enhance productivity and profits. During this two-day event, farmers had an opportunity to interact with cutting-edge high-tech ag players and experience the latest innovations first-hand. Over 75 exhibitors showed the outdoor equipment and indoor instruments on hands-on agriculture

technology demos for people to experience, including the Alberta debut of the DOT Technology Corp. autonomous robotic seeder (Figure 2), the Ag Maximizer hay dryer (Figure 3) and AgraCity Drones (Figure 4). The full program is at the following site <https://agsmartolds.ca>. “We are very happy with the turnout for AgSmart 2019,” comments Stacy Felkar, Event CoManager, AgSmart. “We have been hearing a lot of positive feedback from both attendees and exhibitors. On behalf of AgSmart, I would like to thank all of

our partners, sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event a success.” Dr. Shahab Sokhansanj initiated direct contacts with the major producers and processors of biomass related products and to inform them of the goals of Biomass Cluster. Dr. Shahab quoted that AgSmart event is a very important farmer event bringing producers and technology innovators together to work on the common understanding of how the emerging smart technologies increase productivity/profitability while lowering the impact of farming operations on climate change. He recommends that Biomass Cluster seize on this first time participation in this well organized farmer focused event and engages with the 2020 AgSmart in order to



Figure 3. A new hay dryer (Ag Maximizer) design and built in Prince George BC and demonstrated at AgSmart. The heated air enters the baled hay through a series of vertical tubes penetrated into the large square bale. The sources of heated air is the heat recovery from a 375 hp diesel engine that runs the high pressure blower

play a contributing role like presenting and demonstrating innovative technologies developed by the Biomass Cluster's researchers. The Biomass Cluster plans to organize a forum of key partner producers potentially in conjunction or in-toe with the future AgSmart events. The plan is to engage Dr. Joy Agnew, the new Director, Applied Research, Centre of Innovation at the Olds College to play a leading role with the Biomass Cluster Canada role in this collaborative endeavor.



Figure 4. Filed demonstration of the capability of the AgraCity Drones