

Message from the AIC President



In the past year, the AIC Board of Directors has focused its attention on renewal of our organization. Key to this was hiring a full time CEO, Myles Frosst, in September 2007. Myles and the Board share a vision of AIC as the bridge builder for the ever-expanding community of

scientists, business men and women, and other professionals who seek to be informed about, influence and invest in contemporary agriculture's contribution to a wide array of sectors of the economy, including agriculture, pharmaceutical, food manufacturing, energy, health and bio-materials.

To that end, AIC's Strategic Plan for 2008 is targeted on:

- strengthening and enhancing AIC's products and services,
- deepening the current broad-based membership to facilitate a greater number of views on the science and innovation of contemporary agriculture,
- enhancing the profile of scientific and professional members, partners and supporters
- reinforcing AIC's financial and management resiliency.

We will not lose sight of the excellent work AIC has done in the past and will continue to do in the future. We are particularly proud of our scientific journals, international programs, accreditation program and membership services.

The *Canadian Journal of Animal Science*, the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science* and the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science* celebrated their 50th year of publication in 2007. The journals deliver

top quality peer reviewed science to readers around the world.

The AIC Accreditation Program ensures a high standard of excellence in Canadian universities and colleges that offer programs in, or related to, agriculture. An exciting new development is the expansion of the program to the international level. AIC has signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates University to undertake a review of their agricultural degree programs, and anticipates further agreements in the coming year.

AIC's international agricultural development program continues to grow and prosper. A new project, ETCANSOL, was approved under our International Twinning Partnership Program. ETCANSOL will support the Ethiopian Society of Soil Science in facilitating the compilation and transfer of soil management technologies, and contributing to the country's efforts for food security and accelerated agricultural development

Our international program was also the catalyst for a new AIC Gender Equality program. A Gender Equality Task Team has been established and begun work, focusing on key aspects of ensuring AIC learns about, supports and promotes Gender Equality in all we do.

Last year AIC also published its second major Discussion Paper since 2005, *Re-Defining Agriculture: Sustaining Agriculture in Canada through Innovation and Diversification*. The theme was continued in our November 2007 conference, *Making Choices: Consumers and Their Impact on Canada's Agriculture and Food*.

But we know that we can, and must, do more to fulfill our mission and to grow AIC into a dynamic organization that responds to the demands of contemporary agriculture.

Graham Gilchrist, PAg

AIC Year in Review 2007

AIC Scientific Journals



2007 marked the 50th anniversary of the *Canadian Journal of Animal Science*, the *Canadian Journal of Soil Science*, and the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. Their lineage can be traced back to *Scientific Agriculture/La Revue Agronomique Canadienne*, first published in 1921, and

renamed *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Science* in 1953. The three specialized journals were launched in 1957. Today the journals publish a combined total of some 2,300 pages annually. They are read in more than 100 countries and have close to 2,000 subscribers.

The electronic versions of the journals are becoming increasingly popular with subscribers and ensuring good service to them is a priority. The National Research Council (NRC), which hosts the electronic versions, anticipates that their new client journal web platform will be in place by the fall of 2008. The new service will provide state-of-the-art on-line publishing equal to that of leading commercial and not-for-profit publishers. Once the architecture is in place, NRC will be able to offer the possibility of full-text html with reference linking to Cross Ref and PubMed, along with other databases as they become available.

AIC's journals continue to be flagships for publication of Canadian, and increasingly, international agricultural research. In an era of ever-frequent new journal launchings and accelerated electronic publishing, the journals have excellent track records, long and distinguished histories, and bright futures.

Scientific Journals Committee

Martin Carter, Mick Price Co-Chairs

Denis Angers	Shabtai Bittman
Chantal Farmer	Frank Larney
Vaino Poysa	Margaret Schmidt
Kim Stanford	Doug Waterer
Ruurd Zijlstra	

Retiring Journals Editors

<i>Canadian Journal of Animal Science</i>		
J. Basarab	C. Girard	J. Small

Retiring Journals Editors, *continued*

<i>Canadian Journal of Plant Science</i>		
S. Acharya	S. Bittman	R. Chibbar
R. Conner	K. McRae	J.T. O'Donovan

<i>Canadian Journal of Soil Science</i>	
M.H. Beare	F. Courchesne

<i>Scientific Journals Committee</i>		
M.A. Price	M.R. Carter	S. Bittman
D. Waterer	R. Zijlstra	

International Agricultural Development Program (IADP)

The 2006-2011 International Twinning Partnership Program (ITPP) started 2007 with the approval by CIDA of additional funding to support enhanced south-south connections. Early in the year exchanges took place between the Africa projects (Tanzania and two in Ghana) and further collaboration was advanced between the Ghana projects. This inter-project cooperation proved so positive that further opportunities for south-south exchanges are being developed for future years.



Dr. Kwame Oppong-Anane (GSAP), Cathey Day (TPCCC), Beny Mwenda and Leonardina Gambishi (TSAEE), Chief of Bole, Northern Region of Ghana.

Within the ITTP, there are currently five projects in four countries (Ghana, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Vietnam), active in areas that include: soil management, soil conservation, vegetable production, post-harvest storage and handling systems, animal husbandry, training, participatory farmer research, professional development, education, and extension activities. Common to all projects is a strengthening of the capacity of partner organizations so that they may better plan, develop and manage sustainable programs that respond to community needs and/or national development priorities.

During 2007, professional exchange visits occurred with the on-going Ghana Integrated Crop and Livestock project, and also with the emerging partnership between the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Ethiopian Society of Soil Science.

This latter exchange provided opportunities for the organizations to learn more about each other, to explore potential areas for future collaboration, and to plan next steps.

A highlight for the year was the International Partners' Meeting (IPM) held in Edmonton in advance of AIC's November Conference. Every two years, representatives from all of AIC's ITPP projects get together to share experiences and acquire skills from one another. The 2007 IPM included in-depth and energetic discussions and presentations on a range of development elements from Results Based Management training to participatory extension methods. Gender equality was the theme of the IPM with invited speakers joining the delegates and AIC Board Members for a morning discussion on working toward gender equality in agricultural projects and organizations both abroad and here in Canada. Before the IPM, a number of the international delegates spent time with their Canadian counterpart organizations touring sites that showcase Canadian agricultural endeavours including research, production and retail facilities.

National Agrology Accreditation Program

AIC's accreditation program ensures a high standard of excellence in Canadian universities and colleges that offer programs in, or related to, agriculture. It ensures graduates meet professional standards that are recognized and accepted nationally and internationally, and gives them the tools they need to be certified for the highly respected and sought after designation of Professional Agrologist (PAg) or agronome (agr).

In 2007 the AIC Accreditation Committee granted full accreditation status to seven programs offered by the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, eight programs offered by the University of Saskatchewan, and six programs offered by the University of Guelph.



Dr. Leslie MacLaren (right), Vice President Academic, Nova Scotia Agriculture College, is presented with AIC's accreditation certificate by Dr. Andy Hammermeister, AIC Director and Susan Simpson, AIC Vice President, at a ceremony held at the college in October 2007.

The 2007 Accreditation Program Report, and a list of the universities and programs granted full accreditation, is available on the AIC website, www.aic.ca/agrology/accreditation.cfm.

Accreditation Committee

Bryan Harvey
Tom Beach

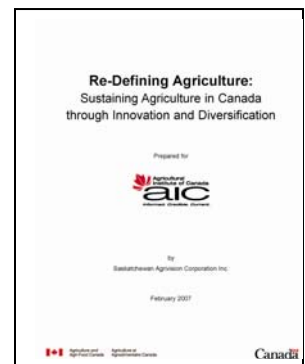
Claudine Lussier, agr
Conrad Bernier, agr
Bert Christie, PAg
Doug Hedley
David Hume, PAg
Margaret Mann, PAg
Dian Patterson, PAg

Director

Accreditation Program
Coordinator, ex officio
ex officio
Arthur Bomke, PAg
Marcel Hacault, PAg
Rick Holm, PAg, FAIC
George Jones, PAg
Gary Myrden, PAg

Discussion Paper

AIC's second major discussion paper, *Re-Defining Agriculture: Sustaining Agriculture in Canada through Innovation and Diversification*, was published in February 2007. The paper was commissioned to initiate informed discussion and debate on re-defining and sustaining agriculture in Canada through innovation and diversification.



The discussion paper includes studies of top farmers from across Canada who have employed innovation in everything from marketing their products to diversifying into alternative energy production. The common characteristic of the top farmers is their approach to innovation and diversification, the development of new business models and their direct approach to better understanding the needs of the marketplace. The common result is improved profitability.

Creating an entrepreneurial climate is the key to successful innovators and business diversification within Canadian agriculture. The paper contains recommendations, developed in consultation with participants in a roundtable workshop, for supporting and encouraging innovation and diversification. These include developing a new generation of farm business models and undertaking a critical review of policies and program.

It is the role of all players in the agricultural industry to understand how they can build innovation into their own sector and for governments to provide a policy and regulatory climate that encourages and rewards innovation and diversification.

Re-Defining Agriculture: Sustaining Agriculture in Canada through Innovation and Diversification was widely circulated to producer groups, industry associations, federal and provincial governments and consumers to increase awareness and encourage innovation and diversification. The paper was produced with funding support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's ACAF program.

Gender Equality Program

When organizations consider Gender Equality, it is often an approach that is limited to a particular area - such as human resources or international development programming. Although the incentive came through the International Program, AIC has embraced the concept in a manner that is inclusive of all quarters with the goal to raise awareness of and develop the capacity to mainstream Gender Equality – in terms of both the institutional and programming aspects of AIC's work.

Action to achieve this goal began in 2007 when AIC recruited a Gender Equality Task Team (GETT) comprised of five women and three men - half from Canada and half from partner countries - plus two staff and two board members. The GETT developed an RFP and hired consultants to increase support for Gender Equality within AIC's structures, personnel and policy frameworks and to help AIC begin the process of developing a gender equality strategy that will guide AIC's institutional and program work to achieve equal participation of women as decision makers and reduce inequalities between women and men in access to and control over resources and benefits.



Zebene Mikru, Sam Gameda and Cindy Hanson, participants in AIC's Gender Equality Roundtable, November 2007

The consultants completed an Institutional Assessment and delivered a report to the AIC board, staff and project partners with seven recommendations to guide the organization in mainstreaming Gender Equality in AIC.

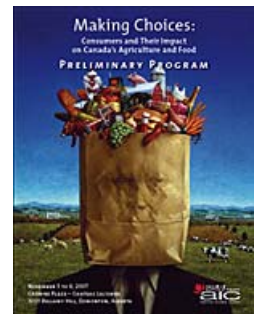
Other accomplishments included:

- Hosting a Gender Equality Round Table of AIC members, partners, staff and Board with representatives from development and agricultural organizations and other panellists with Gender Equality experience who shared insights, experiences and ideas
- Gender Equality Training for project partners in the project countries with plans for more training in the future.
- AIC Board approval of a motion "to develop an Executive Limitations Policy on Gender Equality" and establishment of an AIC Board Gender Equality Committee.

As the GETT develops an Annual Plan and Budget for 2008-2009 it is striving to maintain continuity, momentum, visibility, involvement and prioritization of Gender Equality in AIC.

AIC Conference

Making Choices: Consumers and Their Impact on Canada's Agriculture and Food was the theme of the AIC conference held November 5-6 in Edmonton.



Continuing the innovation theme that was the focus of the AIC 2006 conference, the meeting focussed on consumers' ability to drive innovation in the agri-food sector. It provided a forum for debate about the current and future determinants – scientific, economic, political and social – of contemporary Canadian agriculture's ability to meet consumer and well as related business and societal demands.

The conference offered both plenary sessions and multiple concurrent sessions and featured some of Canada's top industry leaders and scientists. The conference abstracts book, and presentations made during the conference, are available on the AIC website: <http://www.aic.ca/conferences/past.cfm>

AIC is grateful to the Consumer and Market Demand Policy Research Network, hosted by the University of Alberta's Department of Rural Economy, and to the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute, for their assistance in organizing the meeting and their financial support. We are also grateful to our other sponsors: AVAC Ltd. and the Agricultural Institute of Canada Foundation (sponsors of the AICF Klinck Lecture), the Saskatchewan Research Council, Dow AgroSciences, Pioneer, Syngenta, IFASA, and Farm Credit Canada.

Honours and Awards

Three outstanding individuals received recognition at the Agricultural Institute of Canada Honours and Awards Luncheon held November 6, 2007 in Edmonton.

The AIC International Recognition Award, which acknowledges the importance of support to agriculture in developing nations, was presented to **Robert (Bob) Eilers, PAg**, (pictured at right) of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Mr. Eilers worked in many developing countries during the past three decades, most notably Sri Lanka, where he had been a leader in the SRICANSOL program for sustainable soil and crop management.



Dr. Ranjith Mapa (pictured above left) of Kandy, Sri Lanka, received the AIC International Partners Award, which recognizes the importance of AIC international partners in supporting developing nations, for his significant contributions to capacity building and agricultural research in Sri Lanka and his impact on farmers, field workers, students, researchers, academics and policy makers.

Harvey Goehring, PAg, of Winnipeg, Manitoba was honoured as a 50 year member of AIC.

Honours & Awards Committee

Kevin Sanderson, Chair

John Proctor Jack Reams
Kim Shukla

Communications

AIC publishes *AIC Notes*, a weekly summary of information on AIC's activities, agricultural issues in the news, and legislative updates.

AIC's *Monthly Report* to members highlights progress on major program activities within AIC.

The AIC website is updated regularly. A new section on issues in contemporary agriculture has been added, featuring information and news on economics and innovation, environment, food, fibre, pharmaceuticals, and fuel.

AIC is also in the process of establishing committees that will develop briefing notes and policy positions on key issues, which will be posted as they become available.

Membership

AIC is working to significantly increase its membership base over the next three years. A strong membership base will be comprised of agrologists, scientists and other professionals; leading edge corporations (domestic and international) in science and innovation; and associations representing universities, colleges, commodity groups, scientific societies and others; as well as *ex-officio*, federal and provincial departments and agencies engaged in science and innovation policy and programs pertaining to contemporary agriculture.

AIC Finances

AIC's scientific journals represented 34% of our revenues in 2007. This was surpassed only by our International Program, which contributed 40%. The International Program is supported by a contribution agreement with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Services to individual members and associations brought in 19% of revenue. Membership fees contributed 6% and investment income minus foreign exchange losses brought in less than 1%.

2006–07 Board of Directors

The 2006–07 board served from November 2006 to November 2007. They were:

Dale Kelly, PAg	President
Sandy Todd, PAg	Past President
Graham Gilchrist, PAg	Vice President

Isabelle Breune, agr
Glenn Dickson, PAg
Andrew Hammermeister, PEng, FAIC, PAg
Digvir Jayas, PhD, PAg
Ron Pidskalny, PAg
Susan Simpson, PAg

Ron Pidskalny and Sandy Todd retired from the Board in November 2007. Thank you, Ron and Sandy, for your dedicated service to the board and the organization.

2007–08 Board of Directors

The 2007–08 Board of Directors was installed at the AGM on November 4, 2007. They are:

President

Graham Gilchrist, PAg

Vice President

Susan Simpson, PAg

Past President

Dale Kelly, PAg

Directors

Isabelle Breune, agr

Glenn Dickson, PAg

Andrew Hammermeister, PhD, PAg

Digvir Jayas, PAg, PEng, FAIC

Valerie Stevens, PhD, PAg

Doug Yungblut, PhD, PAg

Association Members

British Columbia Institute of Agrologists
Canadian 4-H Council*
Canadian Agricultural Economics Society
Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association
Canadian Farm Business Management Council*
Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology*
Canadian Society for Horticultural Science
Canadian Society of Agronomy
Canadian Society of Animal Science
Canadian Society of Soil Science
Dairy Farmers of Canada
Manitoba Institute of Agrologists
New Brunswick Institute of Agrologists
Newfoundland & Labrador Institute of Agrologists
Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists
Ontario Institute of Agrologists
Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada
Prince Edward Island Institute of Agrologists
Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists

*by reciprocal agreement

Individual Membership

AIC had 606 individual members in 2007.

Corporate Members

AgraPoint International Inc.
Canadian Fertilizer Institute
Colville Consulting

AIC Staff

CEO

Myles Frosst

International Program Coordinator

Tom Beach, PAg, CAE

Head, Journals Publications

Tim Fenton

Membership and Subscription Coordinator

Ellen McWeeny

International Development Program Officer

Brenda Millar

Project Officer

Frances Rodenburg

Publishing Assistant

Laurie Scott

Accounting Assistant

Carrie Whipple