

Primary Growth Partnership - Seed and Nutritional Technology Development

PGG Wrightson Seeds and Grasslanz Technology have completed the contracting process for the Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) programme with the Ministry for Primary Industries that was announced in October 2012.

PGG Wrightson Seeds is spearheading a Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) programme together with Grasslanz Technology Limited to deliver innovative forages for New Zealand farms.

The full programme is valued at \$14.6 million, with PGP funding contributing \$7.15 million over six years.

The Seed and Nutritional Technology Development programme aims to develop new technologies that improve animal productivity and animal health, while overcoming adverse environmental impacts.

John McKenzie, PGG Wrightson Group-General Manager AgriTech, welcomed the implementation of the programme noting that “future high-performing farming systems require forages that can meet the nutritional requirements of high-performing animals. They also require technologies that can mitigate environmental impacts associated with increasing on-farm productivity. With the programme agreed we can now move to starting the specific projects which will deliver these gains.”

The PGP programme consists of five projects focussed on the development and adoption of technologies that provide benefits to New Zealand's pastoral sector through:

- more reliable and faster pasture establishment;
- increased pasture productivity and persistence through reducing the impact of pests and diseases;
- improved animal health and animal productivity;
- lower greenhouse gas emissions; and
- reduced susceptibility to summer drought stress.

In time, farmers can expect technologies that provide improved productivity and profitability across all regions and farming systems where pasture renewal occurs.

Information sharing and closer linkages with other PGP initiatives, particularly around adoption of these new technologies by farmers, should provide additional benefits.

For more information, please contact:

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