

## THE AUSTRALIAN SEED FEDERATION (ASF)

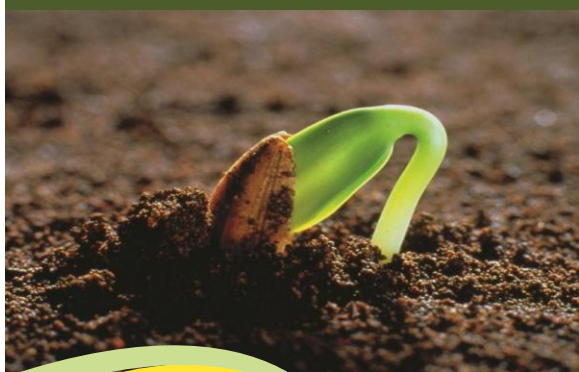
The ASF strives to deliver *Leadership, Advocacy, Adaptation and Solutions* on key issues including climate change adaptation, technological developments, trade, and the growth in productivity of Australian and international agriculture, through the delivery and supply of new and improved commodities and services to the market.

With over 60 years of commitment, the ASF is the peak industry body for the Australian seed industry at the local, state, and national level.

The ASF also represents its members internationally, as a member of the International Seed Federation (ISF) and the Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA).

### CONTACT DETAILS

PO Box 3572  
MANUKA ACT 2603  
P: 02 6282 6822  
F: 02 6282 6922  
[enquiry@asf.asn.au](mailto:enquiry@asf.asn.au)  
[www.asf.asn.au](http://www.asf.asn.au)



# CLIMATE VARIABILITY

## Issue

Adaptation to climate variability starts with a single seed. The Australian seed industry therefore requires a commercial and fair operating environment to assist Australian agriculture to adapt to climate variability.

## Background

The National Farmers Federation (NFF) has identified that *“productivity based R&D has been vital for Australian farmers in developing new higher yielding and drought-resistant crop varieties, achieving water-use efficiencies and adopting conservation, tillage techniques to protect soil structure and maximise water retention”*.<sup>1</sup>

ASF respects and acknowledges the important focus on the requirement for Australian farmers to adapt to changes in their environment as they form part of the total seed supply chain.

But how will they achieve this? How are the constant calls from policy makers, scientists, government and industry, for more investment in plant varieties, drought adaptation, increases in water efficiency and technologies across the supply chain, actually going to be met? This is a gap the whole of the ASF membership is in a position to contribute towards.

The reality moving forward is the undeniable fact that the ASF membership, and a strong, united and vibrant sowing seed industry, will be at the forefront of delivering new advancements in seed technology across the total supply chain. These technological advancements will include the breeding, production, processing, treatment, movement and delivery of sowing seed across all industries.

From turf to horticulture, pasture to broad acre, tropical to temperate, technology to conventional, it is the ASF membership which will be urgently required and called upon to not only assist, but help take Australian agriculture forward. Ultimately seed will be part of the solution regarding climate change adaptation for agriculture.

## ASF Position

The ASF's aim is to grow the collaboration between industry and government, to ultimately achieve the delivery of innovative programs and policy, improve the operating environment, and target the policy positions which are hindering the ASF's ability to assist agriculture's adaptation into the future.

<sup>1</sup> NFF Federal Budget Submission 2009