



Press Release

Monday 31st August, 2009

Oil Mallee—Striking It Rich?

Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc. (MSF) is holding a seminar on Tuesday 8th September to investigate the potential of the Oil Mallee industry for this region.

A delegation from Western Australia has been invited by MSF to present information about their experiences of the Oil Mallee industry to interested people from the Victorian Mallee.

“Although we still have a lot of research to do”, said Mike Mooney, Executive Manager of MSF, “there could be huge advantages for the region in establishing some Mallee plantings.”

Mallee, with its drought tolerant nature, is an ideal tree to successfully cultivate in the low rainfall Victorian Mallee and may offer growers a range of environmental and economic benefits.

The predominate market for mallee in Western Australia is the oil industry, extracting the oil from the wood for use in cleaning products and as a biofuel.

Other potential uses for the mallee are as an alternate fodder supply and for use in the production of biochar.

Speakers at the seminar will include:

David McFall, pioneer mallee grower and Oil Mallee Association Regional Manager;
John Bartle, Manager, Revegetation Systems Unit, Department of Environment and Conservation (WA);
Charlie Hawkins, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Melbourne;
Dr. Amir Abadi, Senior Principle Scientist, Department of Environment and Conservation and the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre;
Simon Dawkins, General Manager, Oil Mallee Association.

“If an Oil Mallee industry were established in this part of the world, it could potentially not only involve farmers” said Mr. Mooney, “but nurserymen, regional development workers, investors and those involved in reducing carbon emissions could all have a part to play.”

“I hope all these groups will be represented at the MSF seminar in order to become better informed and to contribute to the community debate on whether this industry is right for us or not.”

The workshop is funded through an Industry Development Grant from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Date: Tuesday, 8th September, 2009
Time: 10am to 4 pm
Venue: Department of Primary Industries
Cnr Eleventh Street and Koorlong Ave
Irymple
RSVP: By Monday 7th September
MSF on 03 5021 9100 or admin@msfp.org.au

Lunch and refreshments will be provided so bookings are preferred for catering purposes. Everyone is welcome.

*For further comment contact Mike Mooney, MSF Executive Manager on 03 5021 9100 or 0427 219 103.
For further information and contact details for the speakers, contact Victoria Adams, MSF Communications and Liaison Officer on 03 5021 9100 or Victoria@msfp.org.au
All media are cordially invited to this event.*