



Carbon trading market ignites

CARBON trading schemes are making rapid growth in Australia as large corporations look at their emissions offset options for the future.

Investors are taking advantage of the focus on greenhouse gas emissions and are seeking land to plant trees for carbon credits.

This is one area where farmers stand to benefit from the increased global focus on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

One company, CO₂ Australia, recently set up an operations centre in Mundaring and is looking for farmers with which to plant oil mallee trees.

Its move to WA was sparked by a recently announced joint project with Woodside Petroleum in which CO₂ Australia will be offsetting one of the energy giant's gas developments.

CO₂ Australia representative James Bulinski told delegates at last week's Oil Mallee Association conference his company was keen to work with farmers in setting up carbon trading schemes.

"Forests are very important to the global carbon cycle profile," Dr Bulinski said.

"Removing forests results in emissions, so putting forests back really has potential for sequestering and locking up greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

"This is formally recognised under a number of carbon trading schemes.

"Internationally there is the Kyoto framework and in Australia we have programs such as the Greenhouse Friendly program.

"These schemes promote the value of growing trees and at the same time create commercial opportunities around reforestation projects."

Dr Bulinski said his company was not planning to harvest trees.

"We are only interested in carbon trading, not harvesting the tree to create other products," he said.

"The benefits of



oil mallees includes carbon sequestration. "This is the first time real dollars are being returned for delivery of an environmental service. "Plus, there is the added value of reducing

salinity, establishing wildlife corridors, habitat value, reduced erosion and on farm diversity."

Dr Bulinski said establishing a carbon trading scheme was not easy.

"The hard bit is getting the right land," he said. "It has to be Kyoto compliant and have a long history of land clearing.

"Permanence has to be established in the carbon sink and the tree planting proponent and land owner must enter into a number of land titles and other legal arrangements.

"Companies also have to demonstrate organisational competence via stringent record keeping and risk management processes.

"Proving carbon exists also requires a high level of technical competence through the carbon accounting processes and, lastly, you have to survive all the audits."

Dr Bulinski said if all the requirements could be met there were some exciting and serious commercial opportunities in the carbon trading industry.

"The national emissions trading scheme has been talked about for a long time and is due to be introduced in 2010," he said.

"This will be a national regulated mandatory compliance emissions trading scheme and promises to offer a great deal for tree planting and carbon sequestration projects."



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2007 NVT yield data: Noodle wheats Agzones 2, 3 & 5. Yield % of Arrino.

VARIETY	AGZONE 2	AGZONE 3	AGZONE 5	OVERALL*
Arrino	100	100	100	100
Binnu[®]	105	115	107	108
Callingiri	97	110	103	102
# of sites	12	5	4	21
Arrino Mean Yield (Tonnes/Ha)	2.77	4.14	2.62	3.09

* Overall Yield % calculated on weighed mean of Agzones.

Grain quality characteristics typical of Binnu[®] and relevant varieties, from cereal trials over four years (2002 to 2005)
(Data Source: Western Australian Department of Agriculture & Food, Farmnote 296 February 2008)

VARIETY	HECTOLITRE WT (kg/hL)	SCREENINGS (%)*	BLACKPOINT (%)	FALLING NUMBER (secs)	PROTEIN (%)
Binnu[®]	81.6	1.4	4.1	406	10.3
Arrino	81.7	0.6	3.7	381	10.8
Cadoux	80.8	0.8	2.2	362	10.4
Callingiri	82.1	0.6	3.1	368	10.4

* = screenings values exclude broken grain.

Characteristics	1	10
Maturity	Early/mid	
Classification	ASWN	
Stripe Rust		R
Leaf Rust		R
Stem Rust	Camm*	R
Head Type	Awnless	
Uniformity	Excellent	
Yield	Excellent	

* Susceptible to the Camm strain of Stem rust. Resistant to all others.

For more information, or a copy of the Crop Care Seed Technologies National Canola Guide, or a Western Australian Wheat Guide, contact 1800 993 573 or Andrew Suverijn on 0409 484 702.

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oil a chance

Mr Chance said the industry development plan dealt with the issues.

"This plan is all about how to develop the industry in terms of the use of the tree's product," he said.

"This could be in the area of pharmaceuticals or targeting the European market which is absorbing great amounts of timber for heating, both pellets and logs.

"But how do we take it further?"

"The industry development plan is the first stage in that.

"The second part is research and development requirements.

"The new federal government has already shown a considerable focus on climate change and while it has identified a number of issues to do with agriculture, climate change appears to be a major component.

"This is where there is an enormous opportunity for the oil mallee industry.

"The oil mallee is designed for carbon sequestration.

"It is the only tree that you can harvest and the carbon remains in the soil."