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MEDIA RELEASE

GPA taps Aussie opportunities in India after further tariff shock

Grain Producers Australia Director, Andrew Earle, will touch down in India today to meet with researchers, industry and government representatives to explore greater opportunities for Australian growers.

Earlier this week, India announced a further tariff increase on pulse crops, and import duty on all grains in addition now added to the tariff on chickpeas rising to a huge 44 per cent. This comes on top of a surprise increase announced before Christmas.

Mr Earle, accompanied by Tony Russell from GIMAF (the Grains Industry Market Access Forum) will participate in meetings, visit ICRISAT (The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics) and attend the 2018 Pulses Conclave in New Delhi, a biennial event hosted by the India Pulses and Grains Association.

“India is one of our key trading partners,” said Andrew Earle, Director, Grain Producers Australia. “This visit is an opportunity for us to build relationships, promote our Australian product and explore new and fair trade prospects,” he said.

“The recent announcements by India to increase tariffs on our pulse crops, suggests that we need to put more effort into building stronger relations with this important trading partner,” he said.

“As a major Australian pulse producer, I know the effort we have put into producing a high quality, safe and reliable product for the Indian market.

“To continue this strong investment, farmers need certainty, as do our research and development partners,” he said. “We cannot continue with such unpredictable operating rules.

“We estimated the pre--Christmas change in tariffs, which took many growers and traders by surprise, cost almost \$20 million,” he said. “That’s a lot of money from growers’ pockets.

“We remain hopeful that Indian decision-makers, including the Minister for Commerce and Industry the Hon. Suresh Prabhu and India’s Central Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare the Hon. Krishna Raj, will ensure our strong trading partnership continues now and into the future,” he said.

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Note:

Andrew Earle and Tony Russell will travel to Hyderabad to meet former CSIRO researcher, Dr Peter Carberry, who is now the Deputy Director General – Research at ICRISAT. From there they will travel to New Delhi to attend the 2018 Pulses Conclave from 14-16 February. See: <https://thepulsesconclave.in/>

Further information:

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