



Lesser Slave Lake
Economic Alliance

April 8, 2010

News Release

(for immediate distribution)

The Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance (LSLEA) is hosting Dr. Kwesi Ampong-Nyarko at its next board meeting on Thursday, April 22nd, 2010, in Kinuso, AB. Dr. Ampong-Nyarko is a Special Crop Research Scientist with the Food and Bio-Industrial Crops Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development. He will be presenting the results of the year one Pennycress Agronomic trials. LSLEA and the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance have supported this initial work with a combined \$58 000 funding towards this project. Dr. Ampong-Nyarko will be presenting results of the project and the potential opportunities for Pennycress production in the Lesser Slave Lake region. An excerpt of the presentation is as follows:

"Agriculture is expanding beyond the traditional food and fiber production to include energy, biofuels, biomaterials and chemicals. This means new uses of existing crops or new crops have to be discovered and brought into cultivation to meet new demands. Federal and Provincial biodiesel production mandates are fuelling demand for biodiesel. Pennycress is a low input field crop with 30% oil that makes excellent biodiesel for our climate. Pennycress by-products are a good source of organic fertilizer and natural herbicide. Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance and Peace Region Economic Development Alliance in collaboration with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, All Peace Industries and Olds College, are laying the foundation for the cultivation, processing and commercialization of pennycress in Alberta and Canada. It is projected that about 200 growers will be required to cultivate 100,000 acres of pennycress to produce 24 million litres of biodiesel per year from 2012 onwards".

The presentation is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Thursday, April 22nd at the Senior Citizen Centre in Kinuso, AB. For more information please contact Greg Radstaak, Manager, LSLEA, at 780-523-6568. Please R.S.V.P. for this presentation as lunch will be provided.

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