

SSGA Board welcomes new advisors

The Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association welcomes two advisors to its Board: **Dr. Bunyamin Tar'an** with the University of Saskatchewan, and **Doug Pchajek** with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. We look forward to their contribution!



Dr. Bunyamin Tar'an is Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Strategic Research Program Chair in Chickpea and Flax Breeding and Genetics. He is a professor at the Crop Development Centre, Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture and Bioresources, University of Saskatchewan (U of S). Bunyamin did his undergraduate program in Agronomy from Sriwijaya University in Indonesia, and his MSc and PhD from the University of Guelph specializing in plant breeding and genetics. His main research has focused on development of high-yielding chickpea and flax varieties with superior agronomic characteristics, resistance to diseases, acceptable quality and well adapted to Canadian environments. Bunyamin has released 16 chickpea cultivars. He has published 111 articles, including three articles in Nature. At the U of S, Bunyamin also teaches an undergraduate class and supervises several graduate students (MSc and PhD), post-doctoral fellows and research staff.



Doug Pchajek was born, raised and received his MSc in Agriculture in Manitoba. He moved to Saskatchewan to join Saskatchewan Wheat Pool (SWP, now Viterra) in 1981, working in research for 20 years, in a number of roles: Crop Protection Specialist, New Project Coordinator, and Manager of Agronomy Research. As Manager of Agronomy Research, Doug oversaw the seed increase with cooperators for the variety development program. After SWP, he served as Director, Research and Development with Philom Bios for five years, working to develop new inoculant products. Doug joined Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture in 2006. His many roles included Program Manager for Value-added Processing and Manager of Research & Development with the Ag Research Branch. In 2011, he joined the Crops and Irrigation Branch as the Manager of the Production Technology Unit. Currently, Doug serves as the Director of the Plant Industry Unit. He lives in Vibank SK with his dog Rylee and, in his spare time, enjoys gardening, hunting, fishing. He is also a hobby beekeeper with about a dozen hives of honeybees.