

Dr John Stevens
Company Managing Director / Agriculturalist

Governors Bay Road
R D 1 Lyttelton 8971
New Zealand
p: +64 3 328 7185
m: +64 27 242 5707
Email: stevensj@flexiseeder.com

Personal Summary

I have forty-three years of professional agricultural experience in New Zealand and internationally including extended periods of living and working offshore. An agronomist and seeds person including plant breeding by training, I am also a specialist in designing and developing agricultural machinery for land cultivation and seed sowing in conventional and zero tillage systems including plot and “broad acre” equipment in developed and developing countries. I am a major shareholder and Managing Director of Flexiseeder Ltd (www.flexiseeder.com) and founding member and co-ordinator of the Nordic-New Zealand Seed Industry Support Initiative. My international work has involved short- and long-term projects within Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Balkans, Central and South America and the Nordic block funded by governments, the United Nations, World Bank, Asia Development Bank, CGIAR as well as private firms. The work involved has ranged from supporting large-scale emergency humanitarian relief operations to helping assure food security through the development of seed and livestock value chains. Stevens Family Trust owns and runs a 128-ha farm in the Port Hills near Christchurch, raising beef cattle.

Areas of expertise

- agronomy/plant breeding / equipment / seed and machinery production
- agro-ecological overlap (overlays) and its shared integration and utilization for accelerated equipment and seed development
- developing/improving seed and machinery chains
- year-round “out of season” seed and machinery activities
- integrated research, development and extension
- needs assessment, project development, project management
- agricultural equipment invention / design / production
- conservation tillage
- participatory agricultural community development

Career History

2000 – present: Company Managing Director, Flexiseeder Ltd

As inventor, I have identified and co-led a multinational ad hoc Nordic/New Zealand group of end users, parts suppliers and subcontractors to conceptualize, develop and deliver unique modular seed drilling equipment (see www.flexiseeder.com). Branded commercial product now available.

1988 – 2010: International Consultancies (see appended list)

Agronomist/Seed specialist/Equipment Specialist/Agriculturalist in Pakistan, Nepal, Somalia, Afghanistan, Croatia/Bosnia, Ethiopia, Myanmar, China, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Cambodia, Bangladesh for consultancies ranging from 10 days to 2½ years. Funders included USAID, World Bank, FAO, ADB and UNDP. Further information available on request.

1985 – 1987: Senior Scientist and Project Leader, CIMMYT, Pakistan and Mexico
Officer-in-charge of maize breeding programme

1980 – 1981: Agricultural Specialist, Pakistan

Established multi-location on station trials and farmer outreach network for cereal seed multiplication and quality maintenance.

1976 -1979: Research Officer, Peru

New Zealand Bilateral Aid Programme; developed agronomy research programme which targeted forage/fodder production and utilization for livestock in the high planes of Peru.

Key Competencies

- project management
- policy development
- business planning
- product development
- logistics
- value chains
- agro-ecological overlap
- participatory community development
- inventions
- light engineering
- farm management
- word processing

Academic Qualifications

B Agr Sc, Lincoln College, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, 1973

M Agr Sc (Hons) in Range Management, Lincoln College, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, 1978

PhD in Agronomy, University of Nebraska, USA, 1985

Membership of Professional Bodies

- New Zealand Agronomy Society
- New Zealand Grassland Association
- International Association on Mechanisation of Field Experiments

Positions Held

- Acting President, International Association on Mechanisation of Field Experiments
- Trustee, Seed and Mechanisation Development Trust
- Team Leader, Global Seed and Drilling Technology Help Group

Publications

- 54 papers in national/international refereed scientific journals (list available on request)
- Over 100 un-published reports, reviews, evaluations, manuals, guidelines etc

Professional Experience

a) Short-term / On-going

Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom, China, Russia plus a range of European and other countries visited for workshops, seminars, professional exchange; or installation, start-up and servicing of Flexiseeder equipment.

b) Medium to Long-term

Country	Date from – Date to
Bangladesh	2010 (Chittagong Hill Tracts)
Afghanistan	1988 – 1994, 2008
Kyrgyzstan	1996, 2000
Pakistan	1990, 1988, 1985-1987, 1980-1981
Cambodia	1992, 2006
Indonesia	1998, 2005
China	1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
Myanmar	1998
Bosnia	1997
Ethiopia	1994
Nepal	1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1996, 2019
Croatia	1994, 1995, 1996
Somalia	1993
Mexico	1985, 1986, 1987
USA	1982-85
Peru	1976-79
Antarctica	1974-75
New Zealand	1972-74 / 1992-Present