



The Toro Company

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For Immediate Release

Farmers Urged to Update Irrigation Systems to Increase Yields and Efficiencies

Speakers at Toro® WaterSmart® Symposium share benefits of micro-irrigation, or drip irrigation, technology

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (August 5, 2008) – Micro-irrigation, or drip irrigation, that results in better water management and higher crop yields was a recent topic of conversation during the Toro® *Success Without Excess III* WaterSmart® Symposium (available online at www.torowatersmart.com). A panel of speakers stressed recent developments that are helping farmers and growers become more efficient in their water use, bringing to the forefront the importance of water conservation in farming applications.

“Around the world, population growth, improving food production and water management are becoming ever present topics of discussion,” said Claude Corcos, senior marketing manager for Toro Micro-Irrigation.

“Because of the incredible increases in yields, quality and efficiency that a grower can achieve with drip irrigation, this technology has become standard for many crops and will play an important role in the future water management initiatives around the world.”

By 2025, says Corcos, farms of the world will need to provide an estimated eight billion people with food, fiber and fuel — to meet these demands, farmers are expected to make better use of existing resources. Inge Bisconer, chair of the Irrigation Association’s Drip/Micro Common Interest Group, and Deborah Hamlin, director of the Irrigation Association, concurred with Corcos’s assessment of micro-irrigation’s future role. During the symposium, they discussed the Irrigation Association’s drip/micro payback wizard — a tool that helps farmers assess revenue increases and cost savings from upgrading to a micro-irrigation system.

According to Bisconer and Hamlin, this is a timely topic to discuss during the symposium because much of U.S. agriculture still irrigates with inefficient methods, and it is important for farmers to know that micro-irrigation technologies help to use water more efficiently and improve farm profitability.

Stephen Smith, vice president and chairman of Aqua Engineering, Inc., followed with a presentation on how the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) is working to help farmers become more water efficient.

EQIP is a program under the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill which was designed to share the costs of irrigation system upgrades with farmers. “Conversion from surface irrigation systems to drip irrigation increases application efficiencies but can be costly,” says Smith. “Through the WaterSmart Symposium, farmers now know more about EQIP and how it can help them design and fund their irrigation system upgrades.”

Finishing the session, Rodney Ruskin, CEO of GeoFlow, discussed how incorporating drip irrigation systems in agricultural practices provides many sustainable environmental advantages in addition to irrigation efficiencies, including better management of nitrogen, phosphorous, and greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide. These systems also contribute to groundwater cleanup and erosion control.

“While drip irrigation technology is not the complete answer to the problems of water scarcity and declining quality,” finishes Corcos. “It will continue to play an important role in the future water management initiatives around the world.”

For more information on the topic of water conservation in agricultural applications, as well as other topics presented during the Toro WaterSmart Symposium, please go to www.torowatersmart.com.

Toro is committed to helping customers manage water in the most efficient way possible to protect one of the world’s most precious resources. That’s why the company has placed tremendous value in working with customers and researchers to discover new ways to use water more efficiently and responsibly. Water availability is an important issue that impacts everyone, and Toro will proudly do its part to help customers conserve water resources by providing irrigation technologies that eliminate excess water use.

About The Toro Company

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC) is a leading worldwide provider of turf and landscape maintenance equipment, and precision irrigation systems. With sales of nearly \$1.9 billion in 2007, Toro’s global presence extends to more than 140 countries through its reputation of world-class service, innovation and turf expertise. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands to help customers care for golf courses, sports fields, public green spaces, commercial and residential properties, and agricultural fields. More information is available at www.toro.com.

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