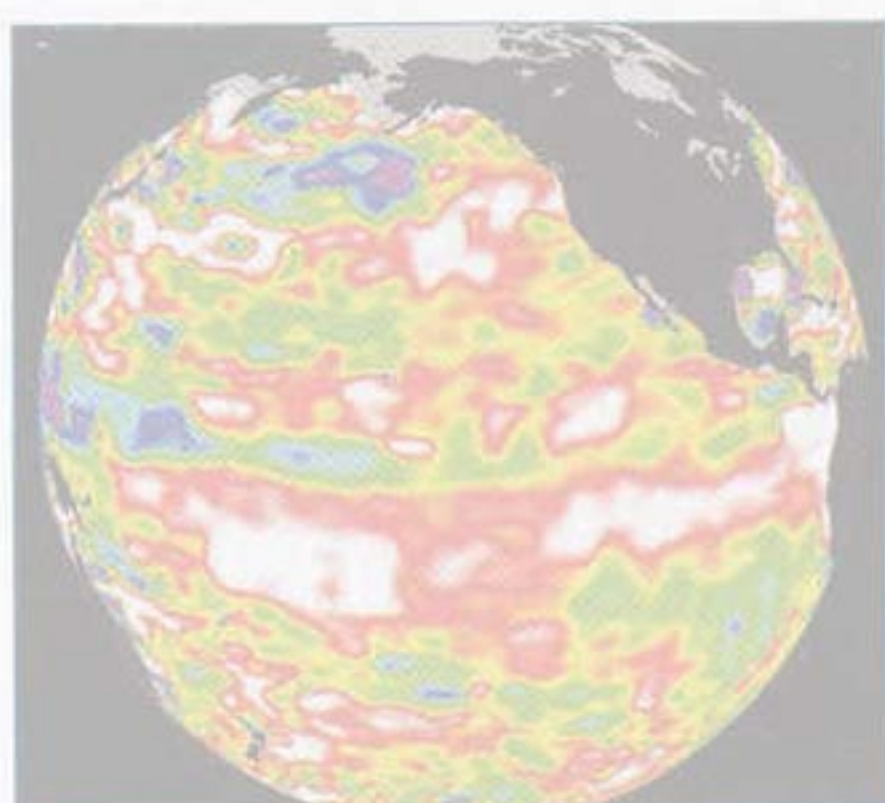


Climate change offers new opportunities for crop based industries, in particular crop protection and irrigation, says recently published report

■ A strategic business report relevant to all organisations concerned with crop production internationally has just been published. The report titled: "Impact of climate on crop production and management - now and in the future", is the first report from the UK based agri-business consultancy company Impact Reports. With chapters from leading European and North American climatologists and specialists in Plant Breeding and Agronomy, the 220 page report projects a positive picture on the future of crop production particularly for northern Europe and northern regions of North America in the period up to 2020 and beyond. A key part of the report's findings is the projected impact on pests, diseases and weeds and their control. Higher summer temperatures, more frost free days and milder, wetter winters are projected to result in increased yields and potential for expanding production areas in the North for maize, soya beans, wheat, sugar beet and oilseed crops. By contrast, in southern Europe and southern parts of the USA, more arid conditions will put pressure on crop yields putting at risk the viability of some crops. In order to capitalize on the opportunities and to protect their business in vulnerable regions plant breeding companies, irrigation companies and other crop input organisations need to review their strategies, the report suggests. Some changes can be expected to have a significant impact by 2020, not a long time to benefit from re-directed research and development programmes or to bring new crop



variety traits to the market. New Ag International will come back extensively on this report in its forthcoming December 2005 and March 2006 issues.

Kemira sells its shares in Kefco to SQM

■ Kemira Oyj and the other shareholders have sold their shares in Kemira Emirates Fertilizers Company (Kefco). The new owner is SQM Nitratos SA. Kefco, of which Kemira has owned 50% and which has been part of the Kemira water soluble fertilizer business unit, is based in Dubai (United Arab Emirates). It produces, using Kemira proprietary technology, urea phosphate, which is sold throughout the world under the brand name Magnum P44 and used as drip irrigation fertilizer in professional vegetable and fruit cultivation. Under the agreement SQM will also acquire the rights to the technology and brand name. Kefco has an annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes of high quality urea phosphate. The company currently employs 28 people.



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