Dr. Shahab Sokhansanj from Biomass Cluster participated in a major farmers producers event held on August 13 and 14, 2019 in Olds Alberta. Olds College, Agri-Trade Alberta and Alberta Innovates were the major organizers and sponsors of the AgSmart event (Figure 1). Over 2,000 people attended the inaugural two-day hands-on demonstration and education expo focused on agriculture technology and data across the sector – how to gather data, and how to use the data to enhance productivity and profits. During this two-day event, farmers had an opportunity to interact with cutting-edge high-tech ag players and experience the latest innovations first-hand. Over 75 exhibitors showed the outdoor equipment and indoor instruments on hands-on agriculture technology demos for people to experience, including the Alberta debut of the DOT Technology Corp. autonomous robotic seeder (Figure 2), the Ag Maximizer hay dryer (Figure 3) and AgraCity Drones (Figure 4). The full program is at the following site https://agsmartolds.ca. “We are very happy with the turnout for AgSmart 2019,” comments Stacy Felkar, Event CoManager, AgSmart. “We have been hearing a lot of positive feedback from both attendees and exhibitors. On behalf of AgSmart, I would like to thank all of our partners, sponsors and volunteers who helped make this event a success.”

Dr. Shahab Sokhansanj initiated direct contacts with the major producers and processors of biomass related products and to inform them of the goals of Biomass Cluster. Dr. Shahab quoted that AgSmart event is a very important farmer event bringing producers and technology innovators together to work on the common understanding of how the emerging smart technologies increase productivity/profitability while lowering the impact of farming operations on clime change. He recommends that Biomass Cluster seizes on this first time participation in this well organized farmer focused event and engages with the 2020 AgSmart in order to
play a contributing role like presenting and demonstrating innovative technologies developed by the Biomass Cluster’s researchers. The Biomass Cluster plans to organize a forum of key partner producers potentially in conjunction or in-toe with the future AgSmart events. The plan is to engage Dr. Joy Agnew, the new Director, Applied Research, Centre of Innovation at the Olds College to play a leading role with the Biomass Cluster Canada role in this collaborative endeavor.

Figure 4. Filed demonstration of the capability of the AgraCity Drones