



## Media Release

18 March 2003

### Canadian view for Aussie farmers

Agrifood Awareness Australia will host Canadian farmer Bruce Dalgarno, director of Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA), and former chairman of the Canola Council of Canada in Australia from Tuesday 18 to Friday 28 March.

"We are pleased to have Bruce in Australia to share his experience of growing genetically modified (GM) canola varieties as part of his farming system," said Paula Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Agrifood Awareness Australia.

"With a decision currently pending on the commercial release of GM canola in Australia, we believe it is important that Australian farmers have an opportunity to hear the Canadian view on GM crops, from an innovative farmer with firsthand experience," said Ms Fitzgerald.

"While visiting Australia, Bruce will talk about his farming system, the challenges he faces as a farmer in Canada, and his use of GM canola as a tool," she said. "He will also discuss markets, and the agronomic and economic impacts of GM canola, including yield, tillage, and pesticide use."

Bruce and his wife Carol have operated a grain farm in Manitoba since 1975. They grow hard red spring wheat, canola (both conventional and identity preserved), barley, oats, flax and peas. In 1998, the Dalgarno's received Manitoba's Red River Exhibition Farm Family of the Year Award.

Bruce has been a director of MCGA for 10 years and served as President for four years. He has also held positions as President of Canadian Canola Growers Association and Chairman of the Canola Council of Canada.

During the next two weeks, Bruce will be presenting and meeting with stakeholders in Mildura, Wagga Wagga, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra, Orange and Canowindra.

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**For further information contact:**

Paula Fitzgerald on 02 6273 9535 or 0418 160 943.

**Bruce Dalgarno will be speaking today, Tuesday 18 March, at 1.30pm at the Victorian Farmers' Federation (VFF) Annual Grains Group Conference, being held at the Bendigo Bank Centre, 157-179 Riverside Avenue in Mildura, Victoria. Media enquiries regarding the visit should be directed to Agrifood Awareness Australia on 02 6273 9535.**