



## **GM Wheat Industry Roundtable Meeting**

### **COMMUNIQUE**

On Monday 20 June 2011, members of the Australian grain supply chain met in Melbourne to discuss GM wheat developments in Australia and overseas, and consider a path-to-market for GM wheat in the future.

Representatives from the research sector provided an update on their GM wheat research and development, which is at the forefront of the global effort.

Research in progress includes developments in grain yield, drought/heat tolerance, nitrogen use efficiency, frost tolerance, and fungal disease resistance.

The Australian grain sector anticipates that GM wheat is within 7-10 years of commercialisation.

The sector recognises that gene technology is an important tool to address global agronomic and food production needs, including food security, climate, and disease challenges and human health and ensure Australia remains globally competitive.

In May 2009, Australian grain grower organisations, together with their counterparts in the US and Canada, endorsed a GM Wheat Trilateral Statement (available at: [www.afa.com.au/news/news\\_pdf\\_057\\_FINAL\\_Trilateral\\_Biotech\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.afa.com.au/news/news_pdf_057_FINAL_Trilateral_Biotech_Statement.pdf)) which supported GM wheat R&D and recognised the importance of markets, trade and customer confidence.

The Australian grains sector will continue to work together - with overseas partners - to build on the Trilateral Statement to prepare an agreed and responsible path-to-market for GM wheat.

The sector is committed to ongoing dialogue and transparent communication.

**ENDS**

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(AFAA hosted the 2011 GM Wheat Industry Roundtable meeting)