



Media Release

Wednesday February 27, 2008

Legal action unnecessary

Reports that the Network of Concerned Farmers are hiring lawyers to prepare early legal action against their neighbours before the first commercial GM canola seeds are even planted in this country again highlights the intransigence and ideology of some groups.

The press release "Farmers Sue Farmers" denies the reality that for 12 years GM cotton has been grown in Australia (GM now comprises over 90 percent of the crop) without any need for legal action.

"If we took that attitude to every new development we would not have any new varieties or technologies; instead we'd have lots of wealthy lawyers," said Victorian Producers Forum Convener Chris Kelly.

"It is disappointing to see this threat with its implicit lack of co-operation and commonsense for such a beneficial technology."

The oft-quoted Canadian National Farmers' Union is a minute group in Canadian agriculture.

The Canadian Canola Growers Association represents over 95 percent of Canadian canola growers, and they are wholesome in their praise for GM canola. The Australian National Farmers Federation has a policy supporting the introduction of GM crops, as does every representative state farming organization.

"Threats like this do farmers no good. We now have a window of opportunity with the lifting of the moratoria in NSW and Victoria, the easing of the drought, and strong world grain prices to move ahead in this exciting new era," Chris Kelly said.

"We spent last year tearing our hearts out over wheat marketing issues. I for one sincerely hope we do not spend 2008 tearing our hearts out over access to the technology that our competitors in Canada and counterparts in Australia have been successfully using for 12 years," Mr Kelly concluded.

Contacts:

Chris Kelly	Vic	0409 208 122
Wayne McKay	NSW	0428 259 345
Heather Baldock	SA	0428 101 416
John Snooke	WA	0417 964 362
Jeff Bidstrup	Qld	0427 063 270

*The Producers Forum is a national group of agricultural producers.
For further information see www.producersforum.net.au*