



MEDIA RELEASE

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GM crops to reduce our carbon footprint

The Grains Council of Australia supports the development of genetically modified (GM) crops, at a time when global food security and combating climate change is critical.

Grains Council Chairman Murray Jones said GM crops have the potential to deliver significant on-farm benefits including increased yields and increased risk management, reduced on-farm costs and reduced environmental impacts.

"As growers, we need to constantly be looking at ways to adapt to climate change and reduce our carbon footprint.

"GM varieties have delivered environmental benefits in soil management and reducing the industry's greenhouse gas emissions through reduced cultivation," Mr Jones said.

Mr Jones said that there are precedents within Australia highlighting the benefits of GM crops.

Research undertaken by Charles Sturt University and Melbourne University has shown that GM canola provides significant potential benefits including superior weed control, higher yields, better oil quality, and greater profits over conventional varieties.

Mr Jones said that GM cotton is another example of a crop that has been commercially grown in New South Wales and Queensland since 1996 with considerable success.

"GM insect resistant varieties have delivered on average an 85 per cent reduction in pesticide use which is certainly a good result for the environment and families in cotton growing communities.

Mr Jones said that GM crops are safe and offer a choice for both farmers and consumers.

GM crops, used as food ingredients, have been grown, traded and consumed around the globe since 1996 and they undergo thorough scientific assessment.

"We need to dispel the myths around GM crops. The commercialisation of GM crops has resulted in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and will continue to make important contributions to our global food security," he said.

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