



## Canola industry looks to technology to improve sustainability

Australia's first harvest of GM canola is underway and represents the opportunity for the canola industry to improve overall sustainability while meeting customer requirements using proven and agreed protocols and procedures.

The Australian Oilseeds Federation supports the use of GM canola as another beneficial agricultural technology.

AOF President, Robert Green said, "If the Australian canola industry is to remain competitive, it needs to continually look to improve sustainability and productivity while ensuring market needs are met.

"The industry strongly supports GM canola on the basis that market choice is delivered - that is, all customer requirements and specifications are met, including those wishing to purchase GM and non GM product - by using our world class grain production, handling, transport and processing protocols and procedures."

Mr Green says, "The grains industry has always operated on the basis of agreed standards and thresholds. These are the basis of all the different types of grain the industry trades and handles on a daily basis."

"While some very low level presence of seed or volunteers around delivery sites may be elevated as an 'issue', the fact is that this is easily, routinely and comprehensively managed, and it is simply a fact-of-life.

"Indeed, managing GM canola is no different to managing all the different conventional varieties of canola, or, for that matter, managing all the different varieties of wheat, barley, oats, lupins, sorghum, maize, rice and so-on....," said Mr Green.

GM crops have been grown, traded and consumed globally since 1996.

"GM canola is not in the news overseas. In Canada, GM varieties account for over 85% of the canola crop, and it has been sought, shipped and purchased for 12 years. Canadian farmers will harvest a record 11.7 million tonnes of canola this year and their industry will keep growing," Mr Green said.

For more than a decade in Australia, cottonseed oil and meal has been used by our food and feed sectors, as has imported soybean meal, soybean oil and canola seed, much of it from GM varieties.

Even so, Mr Green says the Australian canola industry recognises that, while many industry participants are eager to adopt this technology, market choice for growers and consumers is important.

"The canola industry is in the business of producing high quality products for both the domestic and export markets and our industry has the stewardship programs, protocols and procedures in place to ensure that we can deliver a choice of GM or non-GM to our markets," Mr Green said.

"The Australian canola industry has a history of innovation that has underpinned its competitiveness and it will continue to operate to world class practices to provide market choice and meet customer requirements," said Mr Green.