

Media Release



Tuesday December 23, 2008

THE DOOR OPENS FOR GM CANOLA PLANTINGS

The Western Australian Farmers Federation (Inc.) (WAFarmers) has welcomed today's announcement by Minister for Agriculture and Food, Terry Redman, of a limited commercial release of Genetically Modified (GM) Canola in Western Australia for the 2009/10 cropping season.

WAFarmers Chief Executive Officer, Andy McMillan commended the Minister on continuing to support agriculture by enabling farmers to have access to GM technology, firstly through GM Cotton and now through GM Canola.

"WAFarmers has consistently lobbied Government over several years for access to GM canola plantings to determine the performance of the technology in Western Australian conditions," said Mr McMillan.

"WAFarmers looks forward to being involved in the planning of the GM crop plantings.

"We see the Minister's decision today as the next step on the pathway to the lifting of the State's moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms.

"The experience of GM Canola growers in New South Wales and Victoria over the current season will be invaluable in providing WA Canola growers with a first hand understanding of the growing and management of GM Canola," Mr McMillan said.

Studies by Charles Sturt and Melbourne Universities report that the new GM Canola varieties offer farmers the potential for superior weed control, higher yields and oil quality, and better returns than current conventional varieties.

"Details of the limited commercial release announced by the Minister will enable the industry supply chain to demonstrate that managing GM Canola from the paddock to the port is not the logistical nightmare that has been put forward by some industry and consumer sectors," Mr McMillan concluded.

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