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Pacific Seeds welcomes GM announcement

Agricultural seed company, Pacific Seeds has welcomed the recent announcement by WA Agriculture & Food Minister, Terry Redman regarding the GM Canola Trial sites.

“Pacific Seeds supports the recent announcement regarding the GM Canola Trial sites proceeding and advocate the need to take a managed approach allowing research into the use of GM Technology while the supply chain is monitored,” Pacific Seeds Senior Technical Specialist for Canola in Australia, Justin Kudnig said.

According to Pacific Seeds, the decision is also about providing choice for WA Canola Growers.

“It will provide an opportunity for growers to view current varieties and get an insight into new double haploids and hybrid technology will enhance the genetic potential of future Roundup Ready GM varieties,” Mr Kudnig said.

“Pacific Seeds are developing improved GM canola within targeted and realistic breeding timeframes to provide Australian growers with improved genetics.

“Additionally, this can now be achieved through increased breeding and trial work throughout canola growing districts in each of the approved states for GM trialling and commercialisation including Western Australia.”

Mr Kudnig said the opportunity to scrutinize and evaluate analysed and statistically valid yield trial results, herbicide efficacy, crop rotation benefits and overall gross returns is vital in making an informed decision.

“From there farmers can decide when and where it is appropriate to incorporate such varieties into their overall cropping programs,” he said.

“This evaluation will be done by growers as it always has been for all new products or varieties including all growing costs associated with the technology.”

All growers should consider undertaking a comparison of RR canola against the other herbicide tolerance systems to work out RR canola’s fit in their own cropping programs.

RR canola has an important and advantageous role to play within a sustainable farming system that utilises all applicable herbicide-tolerant varieties.

This will encourage ongoing sustainable use of all technologies available to growers and assist in addressing herbicide, disease and insect resistance management.

The canola industry is evolving in the areas of grain logistics and marketing of GM canola. A positive mindset continues to grow despite the pressures that would be faced by any industry attempting to embrace new technology to keep up with changing global climate conditions, dynamic agricultural commodity production and pricing economics.

“Pacific Seeds advocates a staged approach to the introduction of gene technology in food crops, so that the technology can be fully assessed and farmers and consumers have time to make informed decisions,” Mr Kudnig said.

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