

Media release

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### **Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia welcomes GM-canola decision in WA**

Seed company Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia has welcomed news that the Western Australia State Government has decided to allow commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) canola.

Managing Director for Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia, Keith Glasson, said the decision allows Western Australian farmers access to leading edge technology, such as Roundup Ready® canola, that has been available to their international competitors for more than a decade.

“Today’s announcement means that the canola industry in the west now has a positive future,” Mr Glasson said.

“We have consistently said that it is of paramount importance to replace old, low yielding and environmentally unsustainable herbicide technology such as triazine (atrazine) with modern technology, such as canola hybrids with the Roundup Ready® gene,” he said.

“This new technology will allow WA canola farmers to substantially increase their yields, minimise cost, maximise gross margins, and protect the environment and the international competitiveness of their industry.”

Mr Glasson said there were good supplies available to WA farmers of Pioneer’s canola hybrid 46Y20, which contains the Roundup Ready® gene.

“46Y20 was the first canola hybrid released in Australia with the Roundup Ready® gene.

“It has been delivered consistently high yields in eastern states over the past two seasons and performed extremely well in both trials and commercial blocks in the west in 2009.”

Mr Glasson said 46Y20 was on average 16 percent higher yielding than triazine tolerant varieties, including the new triazine tolerant hybrids, in the 2009 National Variety Trials.

“Roundup Ready® canola is exciting technology but Pioneer will also continue to invest in alternate herbicide-tolerant technologies such as CLEARFIELD® canola, which is conventionally bred,” he said.

“In Canada, Roundup Ready® canola has been available for more than a decade, but Pioneer in that country still offers CLEARFIELD® canola hybrids to growers.

“Since we introduced our CLEARFIELD® canola hybrids to the west two seasons ago, they have been giving WA growers higher yields and oil contents than triazine tolerant varieties.”

Mr Glasson said Pioneer Hi-Bred Australia will continue to offer Australian canola growers this choice of herbicide tolerant canola for as long as the market demanded.

He said, “The best news about the decision to allow commercial cultivation of Roundup Ready® canola is that Western Australian growers will now have more choice in the herbicide-tolerant technologies available to them.”

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