



# Developing Co-existence Strategies for GM & non-GM Crops in Queensland

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# GM Crops - What is out there now?

- **Approved for Commercial Production**
  - Cotton
  - Carnations
  - Canola
- **Field trials (Qld)**
  - Cotton, Sugar Cane, Pineapples
  - Lettuce, apples, papaya
- **Field trials (Australia)**
  - Wheat, rice, white clover, roses, Indian mustard, grapevines, torenia, canola

**Office of the Gene Technology Regulator**  
**[www.ogtr.gov.au](http://www.ogtr.gov.au)**

# So what is the Qld Government's position?

1. No blanket approval for GM.
2. Supports the strong national regulatory system overseen by the Australian Gene Technology Regulator.
3. If approved the decision on whether to grow that crop is up to the farmer, not the government.
4. Does not support moratoriums



# Moratoriums – Current Position

- Moratoriums have been in force since 2003/04 in NSW, VIC, SA, WA, TAS and the ACT
- NSW, VIC & SA moratoriums either expire or to be reviewed Feb- April 2008
- Moratoriums harm all States

# Impacts of Interstate Moratoriums

- Implemented to stop GM canola
  - Fear it would affect international trade
  - Belief there would be a price premium
- The Reality
  - Recent ABARE report indicates GM canola is widely accepted internationally
  - A canola price premium is a myth
  - Canola farmers stand lose \$3 billion
  - Australian canola farmers becoming uncompetitive
  - Canola yields falling in comparison with GM
  - Ord Stage 2 needs GM cotton to be viable
  - Reduced investment due to uncertainties

# Queensland's Position on Moratoriums

- No moratoriums but recognizes the marketing and community concerns
- Developed a Co-existence/Segregation Framework in late 2005 to address concerns
- First of its type in Australia



# So What is a Co-existence Framework?

- A set of principles that are applied by Industry and Government to develop specific plans for segregating GM crops from non-GM crops
- Benefits to supply chain participants and consumers

# Which crops will it apply to?

- Not Mandatory – no legislation
- Industry will work with Government on when to apply
- Will occur when the market demands
  - Mixed
  - Non-GM
  - Identity-preserved
- Cotton, canola, sugar cane?

# Principles of Co-existence

- Freedom of Choice
- Transparency
- Practicality
- Minimising impacts
- Case by case assessments
- Development, monitoring & review

# Complexity in Achieving Co-existence

- **Pre-farm Gate**
  - Seed cultivation
  - Seed retail
  - Seed wholesale
- **On Farm**
  - Receiving of seed
  - Storage of seed
  - Transport to seeder
  - Harvesting
  - Transport off farm
- **Bulk Grain Handling**
- **Processing & Export**

# Costs of Segregation

- Segregation is not new to farmers
- Each crop will be different
- ABARE Report (GM Grains in Australia – Identity Preservation Dec 06) estimates for segregation of GM canola - \$15 tonne (4-6%)
- 85% of segregation costs on farm
- Cost won't always be borne by GM growers

# What's ahead?

- **Internationally**
  - Soybeans, maize, canola, cotton
  - Next- GM Rice, industrial GM crops, increasing uptake by developing countries
- **Australia**
  - Moratoriums lifted - GM canola
  - GM clover 3-5 years in southern Australia
  - GM cotton in northern Australia
- **Queensland**
  - GM Sugar cane - 5-6 years
  - Only large crops -possibly bananas, wheat, grain sorghum and tomatoes

# Why so few new GM crops?

- Cost - \$10 - \$20 million
- Time
- Value of production above \$150 million

# Implications for the Soybean Industry

- Unlikely that GM soybeans will be grown in Australia
- Slow introduction of new GM crops
- There will be systems in place to keep new GM crops segregated
- Continued premiums for non-GM crops?
- Demand for soybeans expected to continue



# Questions

