

Submission Cover Sheet

Review of the Moratorium on GM Canola

Submission Number: 76

Name of Individual/Organisation: Driscoll Seeds Pty Ltd

Date Received: 17 August 2007

Number of Pages: 2

Attachments Submitted with this Submission:

To obtain copies of these attachments please call the Review Panel Secretariat on
(03) 9658 4874 or (03) 9658 4871



Thursday, 16 August 2007

Dear Biotech canola review panel secretariat,

Re: Review of Moratorium of Biotech Canola Submission

Driscoll Seeds sells canola seed throughout Central Victoria and the Western District. We also buy canola grain as an agent. We deal with many farmers and resellers throughout these areas.

We believe that the local canola industry will become unsustainable in the future if new genetics such as Roundup Ready (RR) in canola hybrids isn't released.

For a canola enterprise to be profitable and therefore sustainable for a grower, two main factors need to be realised. Firstly, canola needs to yield to expectation and secondly, good prices need to be available upon sale. A farmer cannot have complete control over either factor, but each factor must have options available to manage risk.

In the case of managing risk for price, there are many options now available to canola growers. They can forward contract, forward sell using futures or insure price falls with options. These pricing strategies are available from a number of marketers and financial service providers.

Weeds are a major yield risk factor for successful canola production. When the canola industry began, the only canola varieties available were varieties without herbicide tolerance (conventional). With the increase in prevalence of Brassica type weeds, this choice of canola type has been diminished to almost zero.

Triazine tolerant (TT) varieties became popular because they allowed Simazine and Atrazine to be sprayed to control Brassica weeds successfully. Canola varieties released with this trait have a yield penalty of about 20% compared to conventional/ Clearfield (IT) varieties. This has been proven in replicated trials. A canola yield of 2.5 t/ha is a good yield in our area that is achievable in kind seasons. Anecdotally, we very rarely hear of a TT crop achieving 2.5 t/ha, whereas a conventional/ IT crop of 2.5 t/ha is more common.

DRISCOLL SEEDS PTY LTD
 43 Maryborough - Dunolly Road, Maryborough, VIC
 PO Box 30 Carisbrook, VIC 3464
 Phone: 03 5461 1922
 Fax: 03 5460 4751
 Accounts: Shelley Cullum; Phone: 0428 605 038, Fax: 5460 4143
 Mobiles: Troy Driscoll: 0428 641 112, Matt Nihill: 0427 611 922, Seamus McKinley: 0428 611 924
 Emails: troy@driscollseeds.com.au, matt@driscollseeds.com.au, seamus@driscollseeds.com.au
 Website: www.driscollseeds.com.au



There is mounting evidence to suggest that Triazine tolerant varieties will no longer be an option in the future because Simazine and Atrazine pose environmental concerns.

IT canola is another option to control Brassica weeds with no yield penalty. However, due to herbicide resistance in grass weeds, IT varieties can only be used in some cases. As resistant weed populations increase over time, IT will become less of an option.

In summary:

- Conventional varieties can only be used where Brassica weeds aren't present which is rare.
- TT varieties have a yield penalty and are likely to be taken away as an option in the future.
- IT varieties can only be grown in cases of no group B herbicide resistance and in paddocks that don't contain silver grass.

RR canola will provide part of the solution in managing herbicide resistance and maintaining canola yield. It will also provide growers in our area with greater opportunity to grow canola because weeds can be managed post emergence cheaply in a way that isn't possible with TT's or IT canola.

We see RR canola as another way of managing weed resistance to herbicides. It is not a silver bullet, but it will allow canola to be grown profitably into the future.

Regards

Troy Driscoll

DRISCOLL SEEDS PTY LTD
 43 Maryborough - Dunolly Road, Maryborough, VIC
 PO Box 30 Carisbrook, VIC 3464
 Phone: 03 5461 1922
 Fax: 03 5460 4751
 Accounts: Shelley Cullum; Phone: 0428 605 038, Fax: 5460 4143
 Mobiles: Troy Driscoll: 0428 641 112, Matt Nihill: 0427 611 922, Seamus McKinley: 0428 611 924
 Emails: troy@driscollseeds.com.au, matt@driscollseeds.com.au, seamus@driscollseeds.com.au
 Website: www.driscollseeds.com.au