

The NSW Farmers' Association over the years has developed numerous policies relating to the progression and development of Genetically Modified Organisms for the benefit of growers, and the industry as a whole.

As with all policies developed by the Association, the following motions have been democratically debated and passed by our members at numerous policy setting forums over time.

AC09 That the Association not support the release of any Genetically Modified crop unless the issue surrounding growers and non-growers protection through insurance against litigation due to Genetically Modified contamination is established.

AC09 That the Association recognises the success of Genetically Modified cotton and the increasing uptake of Genetically Modified canola in NSW and proactively supports research and development and market and trade discussions for future Genetically Modified crops.

AC09 That the Association continue to lobby to protect non Genetically Modified growers from the risks and liabilities involved with the commencement of producing of Genetically Modified food crops, and that the onus of responsibility must be on the grower of Genetically Modified crops for detrimental effects on non Genetically Modified growers.

EC09-That the Association supply the information required in plenty of time to our members for us to be able to convene a meeting and put motions to Annual Conference 2009.

EC09-GM Food Crop

That the Association give to our Members a full report in writing, the actions and implementations of the two motions passed at Annual Conference 2008. The two motions are G13 and G14. These two motions are GM FOOD CROP motions.

AC08 That, based on sound credible data, the Association work with industry and Government to inform its members and other consumers of the known and potential benefits of GM technology as applied to food crops and of the role of the regulatory authorities (Office of Gene Technology Regulator and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand) in protecting the health and safety of people and the environment.

AC08 That the Association support full transparent labelling of GM ingredients in all imported and domestic products including livestock.

AC08 That the Association lobby both State and Federal Governments to protect non-GM canola growers from costs arising from cross contamination, liability, segregation, and any other detrimental issues that will occur with the commencement of growing GM canola and other GM food crops grown on a commercial scale within Australia.

AC07 That the Association;

- a) give priority to achieving removal of the GM crop moratorium via a high profile public stance and proactive participation in the review process in a coordinated campaign with the farmer organisations of other states;
- b) lobby for further work on GM take all resistance to be continued in Australia; and
- c) lobby for further funding for research and development into conferring drought resistance in crops using GM techniques.

AC 06 That the Association;

- a) lobby the Primary Industries Ministerial Council to set adventitious presence levels of GM for all crops;
- b) investigate the development of a practical, objective and inexpensive 'on-farm' GM detection test;
- c) implement an encompassing farmer education and awareness campaign regarding GM canola before the end of the current moratorium; and
- d) call for the immediate lifting of the moratorium on GM crops in NSW.

05 Oct EC That the Association advise the Minister for Agriculture that the grain industry needs a threshold for the unintended presence of GM in non-GM products. The threshold levels should be 0.5% for seed and 0.9% for grain.

AC 05 That the Association lead a whole of industry push to resolve issues preventing the commercial release of genetically modified canola, before the expiry of the existing moratorium.

05 Feb EC That the Association lobby DAFF to create an objective national framework to process the commercial release of GM crops following approval by the Gene Technology Regulator.

04 Apr EC/AC 04 That the Association support:

- (a) biotechnology as one of a number of innovative tools for improving the productivity and sustainability of agriculture;
- (b) continued research into, and trialling and evaluation of, individual GM agricultural products; and
- (c) the commercial release of GM products provided that:
 - (i) the appropriate regulatory authority stringently assesses all possible human health and environmental risks using independent data;
 - (ii) the release is clearly supported by all sections of industry concerned on the basis of its significant economic or environmental benefits;
 - (iii) the interests of farmers affected by the commercial release are protected, where necessary, by a cost-effective and robust system of identity preservation implemented along the length of the supply chain; and
 - (iv) farmers are able to insure against potential litigation that might result from their adoption of the technology."
- (d) The promotion of the facts about biotechnology and Genetically Modified Organisms to farmers, government and the community in general.

03 Oct EC That the Association supports the following types of trials of GM canola provided that they are approved by the NSW Agriculture Council on Gene Technology (NACGT):-

- (a) on farm agronomic trials to test GM varieties against conventional varieties,
- (b) on farm demonstration areas and seed increase areas in a range of environments,
- (c) segregation in the receival system, and
- (d) marketing of holds or bulk cargo to test client satisfaction and delivery chain segregation.

03 Oct EC That the Association seeks that the NSW Minister for Agriculture publicly releases the specific issues/questions that GM canola trials in NSW will address and answer during the three year moratorium. These issues must include:

- (a) Agronomic performance
- (b) Insurance
- (c) Liability
- (d) Segregation
- (e) Marketing and trade

03 Apr EC That the Association support the creation of an independent GM canola committee to monitor and report publicly on the three year trial (5,000 Ha/pa) of GM canola in NSW

03 Apr EC That the Association support a three (3) year trial of GM canola in NSW (up to a maximum of 5,000 Hectares per annum) as a condition of the license to be issued by the OGTR, and/or as Legislation of the NSW State Government, with results from these trials made publicly available and an appropriate timeframe set for industry to comment before any commercial release is approved.

AC 02 That the Association support

- (a) the most stringent monitoring of the trials of GM Canola to ensure compliance with the OGTR;
- (b) the postponement of the general release plans for GM and Round-up Ready Canola in Australia until such a time as all identity preservation issues affecting marketing and trade issues are fully addressed by Government and industry.

AC 00 That the Association seek that governments introduce accurate detailed labelling of all GM food products.

AC 00 That the Association seek Federal Government assistance to compliment GMO research with a Government funded plant breeding and seed production crop rotation systems to ensure Australia retains its position as a producer of safe healthy clean foods

AC 00 That the Association support the protection and fostering of the competitive position of Australia's biotechnology sector.

AC 00 That the Association support a rigorous but sensible approach to the legislation that governs the release of GM products such that food safety concerns are paramount but that arrangements are not so cumbersome as to pose unreasonable delays or costs on the process.

