

Farm Weekly(WA)

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New varieties canvassed at GIWA update

By COLIN BETTLES

THE Grains Industry Association of WA (GIWA) held an update for agronomists and consultants in Perth last week, focussing on the new varieties that may be planted by growers in WA next season.

Genetically Modified (GM) canola was one variety that came under the microscope, as did new wheat, barley, oats and pulse lines.

Australian Grain Technologies CEO Steve Jeffries delved into the new wheat available to growers in 2010, while Nuseed outlined its aims to expand the area of Monola grown in WA.

Another talk came from Rabobank WA manager Crawford Taylor who provided an outlook on grain prices for next year.

Mr Taylor said crop plantings could be lower in 2010, due to the low grain prices on offer this season, which may help boost the price again.

Department of Agriculture and Food agricultural systems research manager Dr David Bowran gave an update on where the WA GM canola trials were at this season.

Nuseed WA Sales and Production Agronomist Glenn Lendon outlined the direction and the progress of his company's new variety Monola.

Mr Lendon said several growers had planted the canola in WA for the first time this year, after being encouraged by its yield results from the 2008 National Variety Trials

(NVT).

He said the growers were also encouraged by the \$45 per tonne premium being offered for the new variety.

Growers at Williams, Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Arthur River and Boyup Brook have started growing Monola crops and will deliver it to Riverland Oilseed Processor's Pinjarra crushing plant.

The oil will be exported or supplied to domestic customers located on the east coast.

Mr Lendon said approximately 1300 hectares of Monola was being grown in WA this season.

"From the crop inspections I have conducted and from reports by the farmers all the crops have got off to a good start and have shown good early vigour," he said.

"One of the farmers commented that the crop vigour was similar to the canola variety Beacon.

"This variety has in the past made up the majority of his area planted to canola.

"Demonstration crops of Monola are also being grown in Gnowangerup and Cranbrook.

"The Gnowangerup Community Cropping Program have sown a crop of Monola 76TT."

Mr Lendon said the aim was to increase the Monola crop area tenfold in WA, for 2010.

Monola 76TT is also included in 12 NVT trials this season at a number of locations including

Northampton, Eradu, Calingiri, Wagin, Wickiepin, Kojonup West and Munglinup.

Mr Lendon said Nuseed was aiming to continue the release of new Monola varieties that are adapted to WA conditions.

Monola oil supplies a low saturated and virtually trans-fat free alternative to palm, cottonseed and hydrogenated vegetable oils.

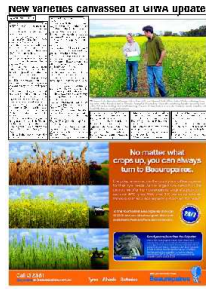
The oil has been awarded the Heart Foundation's Tick of Approval. Monola oil contains less than 7 per cent saturated fat which is significantly lower than the alternatives that can contain saturated fat levels of up to 51pc.

Monola oil is already available commercially and is marketed under the brand name "Crisco Endura" by Goodman Fielder Food Services.

Mr Lendon said investigations into grain storage options and remuneration arrangements were also being made.

"Nuseed considers that this year's crop is a solid foundation on which to increase the area planted to Monola varieties in future seasons," he said.

"We don't have the volume to go through the CBH storage network yet, but we have an in-principle storage agreement in place and hope to have it formally signed off by the end of the year."



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□ Nuseed Field Operations Manager Glenn Ryan (left), and Nuseed Field Officer Adam Wallis, collecting flowering notes on the breeder's trial for *Monola*, located at Goomalling. Nuseed is conducting breeder screening trials within WA at Goomalling, York and Katanning. The aim of these trials is to provide Nuseed's canola breeders with local WA data on variety performance.