

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Support for Canola Trade to Pakistan

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) and the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) welcome the recent decision by Pakistan to approve canola imports that may include genetically modified (GM) material, a significant development for the Australian canola industry.

GTA and AOF support the scientific and rules-based trade of grain into international markets and continue to work collaboratively with other Australian industry associations to promote these principles globally.

This outcome follows extensive advocacy and technical engagement led by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Government of Pakistan. The Department's efforts in preparing detailed technical submissions and conducting plant-related engagement activities with Pakistan have been central to this positive result.

GTA CEO Pat O'Shannassy said the decision strengthens opportunities for Australian exporters and growers.

"The Pakistan market has tracked at just over half a million tonnes annually over the past five years. This progress presents a valuable opportunity for Australian canola in both volume and value. Importantly, as more Australian growers adopt genetically modified canola in their rotations, this new market access effectively opens Pakistan to a larger pool of Australian supply."

Rosemary Richards, AOF Chair, said the decision is an important step in supporting ongoing market confidence in Australian canola.

"Science-based, rules-driven market access is critical to maintaining strong and reliable trade pathways for Australian canola. This outcome supports growers and exporters by ensuring our production systems, including the adoption of GM canola, continue to be recognised and accepted in key international markets."

While final import arrangements are still being clarified, GTA understands that Pakistani importers may request a licence or permit to import GM canola. GTA advises any members engaging with counterparties in Pakistan to be aware of this requirement when entering trade discussions.

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About GTA

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the peak industry body for the commercial grains sector in Australia, providing the framework to facilitate and promote grain trade. With over 280 Member organisations spanning the entire value chain, GTA Members are responsible for over 95% of all grain contracts, storage and freight movements nationally. GTA also represents Australia's interests in global markets through its role as a founding and active member of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC). A list of GTA Members can be found at www.graintrade.org.au