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Viterra partners with GRDC to continue important canola research

Viterra is partnering with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to continue its work into developing herbicide tolerant juncea canola (XCEED™) hybrids and open pollinated (OP) varieties.

GRDC will contribute \$1.5 million over five years to the \$6 million project, to be headed up by Viterra Senior Oilseeds Breeder Dr Wayne Burton.

Dr Burton said the development of the XCEED™ canola hybrids and open pollinated varieties would enable canola to be grown over a broader area in Australia, including low rainfall environments, resulting in a greater adoption of the crop.

"This project will provide environmental, social and economic benefits for Australian canola growers and will enhance the economic sustainability of Australian growers by delivering adapted hybrids and open pollinated varieties that will give them a viable break crop in their cropping rotation," Dr Burton said.

"Expanding the planted area to canola and improving yield stability in challenging production environments is expected to help strengthen oilseed exports and the domestic crush business.

GRDC's Program Manager, Bronwen MacLean said they were pleased to support this important research.

"Australia is a small investor in grains R&D, accounting for less than 2% of the global grains R&D investment. It is therefore essential that we leverage off international investment and develop partnerships that will benefit Australian grain growers," Ms MacLean said.

"By partnering with Viterra in a canola quality *Brassica juncea* breeding program, we aim to have an oilseed break crop that will be profitable for growers in more marginal cropping regions of Australia."

Viterra has a strong Canadian program of developing canola varieties from its vast *Brassica juncea* germplasm library.

In addition, Dr Burton said the company has recently expanded its Australian based program through its acquisition of *Brassica juncea* germplasm jointly developed with Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd, the commercial arm of the State of Victoria's Department of Primary Industries.

"We look forward to further supporting the sustainability of Australia's grain industry through this research," Dr Burton said.

Since entering the Australian and New Zealand agriculture industries in 2009, Viterra has committed more than \$2.5 million dollars to support and expand research and development activities, providing funding to a variety of organisations and initiatives.

About Viterra

Viterra provides premium quality ingredients to leading global food manufacturers. Headquartered in Canada, the global agribusiness has extensive operations in Western Canada, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Our growing international presence also extends to offices in Japan, Singapore, China, Switzerland, Italy, Ukraine, Germany and India. Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, we operate in three distinct businesses: grain handling and marketing, agri-products, and processing. Our expertise, close relationships with producers, and superior logistical assets allow the company to consistently meet the needs of the most discerning end-use customers, helping to fulfill the nutritional needs of people around the world.



About GRDC

The Grains Research & Development Corporation is one of the world's leading grains research organisations, responsible for planning, investing and overseeing research and development, delivering improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry. The GRDC's mission is to invest in research and development for the greatest benefit to its stakeholders – grain growers and the Australian Government. The Corporation links innovative research with industry needs. The GRDC's vision is for a profitable, internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable grains industry.

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