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Viterra launches new faba bean

Viterra has co-launched PBA Rana[®], an improved quality faba bean variety. This is the first variety released from Viterra's partnership with Pulse Breeding Australia (PBA).

Josh Gavenlock, Viterra's Crop Protection Product and Seed Product Line Manager said through the PBA faba bean program, the company had partnered with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the University of Adelaide to introduce PBA Rana[®].

"Introducing new and improved varieties to benefit growers and end users is of great importance to Viterra and as the commercial partner for the faba bean program, Viterra will work with PBA in expanding the area and production of faba beans in Australia," Mr Gavenlock said.

Brondwen MacLean, GRDC Manager Breeding Programs said that the release of PBA Rana[®] was a good example of how nationally coordinated breeding programs can deliver better pulse varieties for specific regions.

"This is growers' money being invested by the GRDC and its research partners to directly support the release of a new faba bean variety for those long season production areas," she said.

"This highlights the strong collaboration PBA develops with its commercial partners."

Dr Jeff Paull of the University of Adelaide PBA faba bean program said PBA Rana's overall disease resistance profile was superior to current faba bean varieties grown in Australia, which was a major breeding priority.

"Resistant varieties increase reliability of production and reduce the cost of inputs, while high seed quality will give Australian faba beans a marketing advantage in the competitive Middle East market," Dr Paull said.

PBA Rana[®] is resistant to foliar and seed Ascochyta blight, has improved tolerance to iron deficiency chlorosis and improved resistance to chocolate spot. As a relatively late flowering and maturing variety, it is particularly suited to higher rainfall, long season faba bean production regions. PBA Rana[®] has good early vigour, good stem strength and resistance to lodging, and its pods are easy to thresh.

The variety will primarily be available to growers in the South East region of South Australia next year before being extended to other suitable regions around Australia.

Background:

Pulse Breeding Australia (PBA) is an unincorporated joint venture between Grain Research Development Corporation (GRDC), the University of Adelaide, South Australia Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Department of Primary Industries Victoria, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia and Pulse Australia.

About Viterra

Viterra provides premium quality ingredients to leading global food manufacturers. Headquartered in Canada, the global agribusiness has extensive operations across Western Canada, North America, Australia and New Zealand. The company's growing international presence also extends to offices in Japan, Singapore, China, Vietnam, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Germany and India. Driven by an entrepreneurial spirit, Viterra operates in three distinct businesses: grain handling and marketing, agri-products, and processing. Viterra's 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. TSX: VT ASX: VTA

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