

Grain Trade Australia

Policy for Genetically Modified Grain

Introduction

This policy has been developed to provide guidance to the Australian grains industry and Australian Government in regard to the issue of Genetically Modified Grain.

This policy and aligned processes will assist to deliver confidence to the industry, governments and the community that market access will be maintained or enhanced and that, if required there is market choice for the domestic and global grain trade supply chains. GTA works with the industry to develop and maintain the “Delivering Market Choice with GM Crops” Framework that brings together the industry’s practices and protocols that industry requires to be satisfied are in place to enable the seamless development, commercial release and trade of GM grain.

All parties recognise that the process should be focused on GM derived technologies that have been approved for commercial release and on market choice and market access facilitation issues only. GTA supports national regulatory systems that have legislative responsibility for human health, safety and environmental issues (e.g. OGTR, FSANZ, and APVMA) and grain trade (e.g. DAWR, DFAT).

About GTA

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. It facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy and commercial services to the Australian grain value chain. GTA members are responsible for over 95% of all grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia. Over 95% of the grain contracts executed in Australia each year refer to GTA grain standards and/or trade rules.

GTA members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic end users and exporters. GTA members are involved in grain trading activities, grain storage, grain for human consumption and stock feed milling. A list of all members is attached.

The GTA Committee responsible for development and management of the GTA GM grain policy is the Committee for Plant Breeding Innovation (Committee).

The Committee is a technical advisory group to the GTA Board, comprised of appropriately qualified individuals, and, in relation to this issue, is responsible for:

- management of the GTA GM policy so that it reflects industry needs in relation to commercial activities associated with the introduction, commercialisation and trade of innovative plant breeding technologies
- consulting with and advising where required, with technology proponents, seed companies and other related parties in relation to current and “pipeline” GM technologies intended for release in grain crops within Australia
- engaging with industry and supply chain stakeholder groups with a mandate to develop policies and processes relating to GM grain

Policy

Grain Trade Australia (GTA):

- Supports research utilising emerging plant breeding technologies to enhance the productive capacity of Australian grain producers
- Supports the commercial release and trade of genetically modified (GM) technology in grain that has been approved for commercial release by the Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and other relevant Federal, State and Territory regulators
- Will maintain the industry's "Delivering Market Choice with GM Crops" Framework which has been developed with broad support of the industry and provides the policies and processes to support the commercial introduction of OGTR approved crops
- Will develop commercial resources (grain standards, contracts etc) to support the supply chain management and trade in approved GM grain
- Will be an industry advocate on trade and market access issues in domestic and international forums as they relate to GM crops
- Will recognise current Federal, State and Territory legislation relating to GM technology and its application to the grains industry
- Will maintain dialogue with the technology providers, through CropLife Australia to ensure that in key export countries of interest they seek simultaneous regulatory approval for food and feed (if required), where grain from a GM crop is being exported from Australia (refer also to the Delivering Market Choice Framework)
- In conjunction with the GTA Trade and Market Access Committee, seek opportunities to include discussion of GM policies and related issues in trade agreement discussions and where appropriate leverage these to deliver increased international coherence for approval and commercial management of GM crops