



MEDIA RELEASE

Expiry of moratorium on cultivation of GM food crops in NSW welcomed

2 March 2021 Canberra – The Australian Seed Federation (ASF) welcomed today's announcement by Minister for Agriculture Adam Marshall that the moratorium on cultivation of GM food crops in NSW would be allowed to expire on 1 July 2021.

Chief Executive Officer of the ASF, Mr Osman Mewett commended Minister Marshall and the Berejiklian Government for this demonstration of commitment and support for agricultural innovation and the state's farming sector.

"Allowing the moratorium to expire sends a clear signal to technology developers and seed companies that NSW is 'open for business' and encourages investment to bring agricultural innovations to the state" Mr Mewett said.

"Since 2003, multiple independent reports have demonstrated there are no trade or marketing benefits to maintaining state moratoria on cultivation of GM crops. Today's decision brings NSW into line with WA, Victoria, Queensland, the NT and mainland SA as jurisdictions in which approved GM crops can be grown."

"This year marks 25 years of commercial GM crop cultivation in Australia. For a quarter of a century this technology has been providing significant economic and environmental benefits to Australia's farmers and consumers" Mr Mewett concluded.

To remain internationally competitive and meet the potential for future growth is reliant on the NSW Government's continued adoption of policies that embrace innovation, engage investment, and bring new technologies to market in a timely manner. The ASF supports choice in relation to crop biotechnology provided that the choice is based on sound science and respects the rights of others to also choose.

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About Australian Seed Federation

The Australian Seed Federation (ASF) is the peak industry body for the Australian seed industry at the local, state, national and international level. The ASF also represents its members internationally, as a member of the International Seed Federation (ISF) and the Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA).

The ASF strives to deliver *Sustainability, Leadership, Integrity and Collaboration* on key issues including climate change adaptation, world food security, technological developments, trade, and the growth in productivity of Australian and international agriculture, through the delivery and supply of new and improved commodities and services to the market.