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The Australian canola industry

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The Grain Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) invests levies from growers and government contributions into research, development, and extension to create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers. GRDC has invested over \$5 million per year specifically into canola research and many millions more on disease, weeds, pests, and farming systems investments to optimise production. GRDC worked with industry to focus on major disease constraints including blackleg and sclerotinia which have had a significant negative impact on production. Industry partners and breeders have developed new varieties to take advantage of chemical resistance traits, which has enabled canola to fit nicely into crop rotations with cereals and pulses. New grazing varieties have opened new hectares to canola. The culmination of these research efforts has increased canola production at the rate of 150,000 tonnes per year from 1990 to peak at nearly eight million tonnes last year.

GRDC does not trade grain, nor do marketing, however, we invest in research to ensure that canola seed, oil and meal meets the needs of consumers. Climate change and the potential for a hotter and dryer environment has focused our attention on water and nitrogen use efficiency traits to produce crops with a minimal carbon footprint. Together our industry has addressed many challenges but there is still work to be done. The Australian Oilseed Federation will be launching its Vision 2035 at this conference which outlines how the industry will meet these challenges.