



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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AAFC Brassica Review: Update

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Canada

Brassica Review: Rationale

- AAFC research programs externally reviewed on a 5 year cycle
- Gaps in science capacity evident in the AAFC Brassica program
- Additional vacancies expected within 1-3 years
- Timing was right to ensure that the Brassica program was aligned with Department priorities & strategically directed to maximize opportunities

Brassica Review: Process

- **Requests for written feedback received from 17/34 stakeholders contacted**
- **Input requested re. stakeholders' views on:**
 - Future opportunities within canola/ mustard industry over the next 5-10 years
 - Role of new canola/ mustard varieties in the next 5-10 years
 - Direction of AAFC's proposed canola/ mustard breeding program
 - Focus on target?
 - Any major omissions?
 - Accessibility of AAFC germplasm?
 - Barriers to commercialization?
 - Regional needs addressed?
 - Major research issues confronting the Canadian canola & mustard industries

Brassica Review: Recommendations

- **Review meeting held in January 2008**
- **Review Panel**
 - Ms. JoAnn Buth
 - Dr. Ashley O'Sullivan
 - Dr. Peter McVetty
 - Dr. Jeff Stewart
 - Dr. Christiane Deslauriers
- **18 Recommendations to AAFC**
- **AAFC Management agreed with essentially all of the recommendations**
- **Response to stakeholders in July 2008**

Brassica Review: Status

- **Affirmation of AAFC's role in providing improved germplasm with emphasis on longer term investments that can be used by the private sector to develop market ready varieties**
- **Closer planning and integration among agronomy, breeding & germplasm development, pathology, entomology, physiology, quality, process technology, and molecular biology researchers and working groups at SRC**
- **Closer integration of planning & program delivery with other publicly funded institutions**

Brassica Review: Status

- **Staffing actions**
 - **B. napus breeder: competition underway**
 - **Mustard breeder: competition underway**
 - **Quality chemist: recruited from within AAFC**
 - **Marker-assisted selection service technician: recruited from within AAFC**
 - **Industrial platform for crucifers: realignment of existing program**
- **Maintain good collaborations with the U. of S. in oil processing**
- **Participation in the international *B. rapa* genome sequencing through Genome Canada proposals**

Brassica Review: Status

- Efforts to implement the 18 recommendation continues
- Additional information available from:
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