

Questions & Answers on licence DIR 190 – commercial release of genetically modified (GM) Indian mustard

What does this licence allow?

BASF Australia Ltd has received an approval under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* for commercial cultivation of a genetically modified (GM) Indian mustard for herbicide tolerance.

The GM Indian mustard and its products would enter general commerce, including use in human food and animal feed.

How has the GM canola been modified?

The approved GM Indian mustard has been conventionally bred from a previously approved GM canola line and an Indian mustard line and contains the introduced genes and traits from the parental GM canola line. The parental GM canola line has been authorised for commercial release under the licence DIR 021/2002.

The GM Indian mustard contains an introduced gene that confers tolerance to herbicides containing glufosinate and a gene for male fertility restoration.

The introduced genes are all derived from common soil bacteria.

Where will this GM Indian mustard be grown?

Commercial Indian mustard production occurs on a small scale, mainly in central New South Wales and western Victoria. The GM Indian mustard is allowed to be grown in all Australian growing areas, subject to restrictions in some Australian States and Territories for marketing reasons. Currently, the commercial cultivation of GM crops is prohibited by State law in Tasmania and on Kangaroo Island (South Australia).

Has this GM Indian mustard received any other approvals in Australia?

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is responsible for food safety. FSANZ has approved the use of food derived from the parental GM canola line. This approval also covers the GM Indian mustard approved under DIR 190, as it is derived from the approved parental line through conventional breeding.

What controls have been imposed for this GM Indian mustard?

The licence is for an ongoing commercial release. The Regulator has not imposed any specific measures to manage risk, as the risk assessment concluded that this release of GM Indian mustard poses negligible risk to the health and safety of people or the environment. General conditions have been imposed to ensure that there is ongoing oversight of the release.

Want more information?

A number of documents relating to this decision are available on the [DIR 190](#) page of the OGTR website or via Freecall 1800 181 030. These documents include the finalised Risk Assessment and Risk Management Plan (RARMP), a summary of the RARMP and the licence.

The Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
Tel: 1800 181 030 E-mail: ogtr@health.gov.au
[OGTR Website](#)