Can agriculture manage a genetically modified future?

The debate around genetically modified (GM) crops in Australia has been re-ignited by the case of a Western Australian farmer who is suing his neighbour for ‘GM contamination’. This case has highlighted the need to find ways to ensure practical coexistence between GM and other technologies in Australia. The soon to be released Australian Farm Institute Farm Policy Journal brings together scientists, lawyers, industry members and NGOs to shed light and facts on this debate.

‘The scale of adoption of GM crops globally confirms that the technology will be a permanent part of the global agricultural landscape, so the discussion needs to turn to the management of the technology, not whether or not the technology will be adopted’ said Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute.

The Autumn quarter Farm Policy Journal, ‘Can agriculture manage a genetically modified future?’, provides an up to date overview of the science on coexistence, GM economics and the latest developments in intellectual property rights. It also offers an international perspective with Canadian researchers detailing the lessons learnt after more than 10 years of GM canola cropping in that country. A contribution providing perspective from developing Asia on the role of biotechnologies in rice production is also highly informative.

Journal papers include the following:

- Farmers’ use of genetically modified crops: trends and issues for Australia, an analysis of the economics of GM crops adoption by Professor Ross Kingwell of Western Australia.
- Owning omega 3: Monsanto and the invention of meat, an analysis of legal issues associated with intellectual property rights by Dr Matthew Rimmer.
- GM canola in Canada – the pros and cons, by Kevin Hursh.
- The rise of rice biotechnology, by Orachos Napasintuwong.
- The coming of GM wheat: a seven to ten year program of collaboration, consultation and communication, by Paula Fitzgerald.
- GM crops and foods: promises, profits and politics, by Bob Phelps.
- The European love-hate relationship with GMOs, by Gaétane Potard

The Autumn 2011 quarter Farm Policy Journal preview is available here.

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Media contact: Mick Keogh – (02) 9690 1388 or 0418 256 066