



Nitrogen Use Efficient Canola Showing Early Success

With nitrogen fertilizer prices hovering at about \$500/ton, one of the most eagerly awaited next generation biotech crop traits is greater nitrogen use efficiency, which would help farmers save on input costs and have environmental benefits as well. Several companies are working on nitrogen efficient crops, including Arcadia Biosciences, which recently announced that development of Nitrogen Use Efficient (NUE) canola is showing early success.

In addition to eight successful field trials completed over five growing seasons, Davis, Calif.-based Arcadia established a collaboration with Monsanto Company in 2005 to develop NUE canola, and early field trials indicate notable progress. Field trials have demonstrated that NUE canola can maintain normal yield while using 50% less nitrogen fertilizer, or increase yields by 15% or more under conventional fertilizer use rates.

Conventional crops can only absorb about one-half of the nitrogen that is applied in the form of fertilizer. The other one-half may enter the atmosphere, ground water, and surface waters. Because it enables farmers to increase the amount of crop yield per unit of nitrogen fertilizer used, NUE technology provides the opportunity to increase profitability and help improve the environment.

Most of the nation's canola is grown in North Dakota. Canola oil is recognized as a healthy cooking oil and is rapidly becoming established as a feedstock for biodiesel production. More than half of all canola grown in the U.S. is genetically modified, according to industry estimates.

Source:

Arcadia Biosciences, Tuesday, 3rd April, 2007

<http://www.monsanto.co.uk/news/ukshowlib.phtml?uid=11420>

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