

GMO Monotorium Review.

Submitted by Tim Parsons.

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Questions: 1. What products do you sell in domestic or international markets as 'Tasmanian' and/or 'GMO-free'?

I am and have been a niche small seeds grower for export markets for 26 years. Seeds I have produced have been exported to seeds to Japan, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, France, USA, Canada, Neitherlands. Some seeds remain in Australia for local productions. I mainly produce Brassica crops of cabbage, with supporting crops of carrots, shallots, onions and kholrabi. My Niche small seeds business is dependent on likeminded crop isolation, pollination services by bees and a lengthy rotation for disease management using conventional methods.

2. What market opportunities have you gained or lost as a result of Tasmania's GMO moratorium?

In discussions with my Japanese buyer, I asked him what would be the affects for his production in Tasmania if the GMO Monitorium was to be lifterds. His reply very politely indicated that he would withdraw from production in Tasmania. He regards Tasmania as an excellent reputable source base uncontaminated by GMO Strains of brassicas, slightly higher production and freight costs than other countries but a very high quality source region.

3. If Tasmania's GMO moratorium was to expire what would be the impact on your business?

My Small seeds business would need to source GM tolerant world seed buyers. Over the last 26 years I average around \$10,000 - per hectare gross over 5 to 15 hectares. Thus grossing between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in some years. With growing costs at around 50% making gross income \$5000 per ha.

According to the DPIWE Website

https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Crop%20GMs_High%20Rainfall.xlsx

Gross income from canola lies between 1000 and 2600 per ha with a Gross Margin return of - 40 to \$550 per ha.

4. If genetically modified crops were grown commercially in Tasmania would this impact on your business and markets? If so, in what way?

As stated above, I suggest that the Tasmanian Small seeds business would be radically cut in favour of backstop canola production that will be eagerly sought after as alternate crop to opium poppies. A pessimistic outlook for poppies supported by growers cutting back on area, self included, may mean that canola is a single remaining option to attempt to pay off debt incurred over the last few years irrigation infrastructure frenzy, based on a buoyant poppy industry.

5. Can you provide evidence of the financial benefits or costs to your business as a result of the current moratorium? For example: effects on yield, price premiums or input costs.

Anecdotal from International Seed buyers only.

Question: 1. Are there any examples of innovative GMO policy and regulation from other jurisdictions that Tasmania could adopt or learn from? 4 Tasmanian Agri-Food ScoreCard 2016-17, <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/agriculture/facts-figures/industry>

Unsure.

Questions: 1. Are there new GMOs that would provide positive benefits to your business or the State as whole? What are they and what would the benefits be? 2. What impact has the moratorium had on the research and development in Tasmania? If possible please provide examples.

Whilst science may dictate that GMO plants have a beneficial place in food and plant production a weak link remains in the State Governments' ability to control roadside weeds.

Good farmers can make an effort to contain escape plants on farm. The same cannot be said for roadside weed control.

END.