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OILSEEDS NEWS - MEDIA RELEASES

CANOLA GROWERS TO SIGN SUSTAINABILITY CONTRACT FOR EU



ENOUGH WORK: Canola grower Malcolm Eastwood, of Kaniva in Western Victoria does not want extra paperwork during a busy harvest.

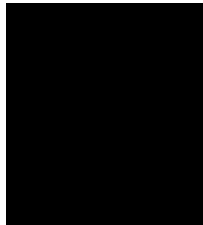
Growers selling canola destined for the European Union, a major export market, may need to sign a contract to prove they have grown their crop within the EU sustainability requirements.

The new rules mean growers delivering this season's crop may need to sign an additional declaration, or

have an additional clause in their agent's contract.

An EU directive was approved last year to ensure all materials used for biofuel in Europe are not grown on land which had "high biodiversity value" in 2008. This includes land that was primarily forest or wooded.

While Australian States and Territories have stringent legislation to ensure protection of land of high biodiversity, the EU requires each canola shipment to be supported with documentation confirming the status of the land on which the crop was grown.



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Grain Traders Association has developed a grower declaration, in conjunction with the Australian Oilseeds Federation and Australian Grain Exporters Association, available on the GTA website.

AOF Executive Officer, Nick Goddard, said growers should familiarise themselves with any additional documentation before signing.

“What it really means is the land such as forests and wetlands have not been cleared since 2008 for cropping,” he said.

Western Victorian grower Malcolm Eastwood feels it is an additional burden to Australian growers. “No one wants extra paperwork at harvest time,” he said. “A lot of grain is carted by contractors and this puts an extra onus on them.”

“At the end of the day, as far as biodiversity goes, it’s already covered by government legislation now. You can’t clear land in most of Australia. It just doesn’t happen down here,” he said.

“We can’t remove dead trees in the West Wimmera Shire, let alone live ones,” he said.

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