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Designing Oilseeds for Tomorrow's Markets

Integrated GE³LS Research Examining Canada's Regulatory System for Plants with Novel Traits (PNTs)

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Summary

The current PNT regulations were established in 1994 and, over time, there is a view that the regulatory process has become both increasingly costly and decreasingly relevant to the risks inherent in new novel traits. This research will examine the regulatory requirements for firms trying to commercialize PNT plant varieties and the rationale for the current mix of regulations. The research will endeavour to provide a cost comparison between the cost to obtain PNT variety approval with the initial varieties of GM canola and the present day cost (i.e. has the cost changed). This information will be used to assess whether there has been a cost increase or decrease. The nature of the regulatory system will also be assessed, in an effort to determine whether the regulatory system is capable of handling new risk factors in forthcoming novel trait varieties.