

# Introduction and Production of Canola Oil in Pakistan



Development of CMS, B and R canola lines at NARC, Islamabad



Canola Hybrid seed production block at NARC, (Rabi 2011-12)

## Farmer's Comments:

Canola crop introduction by PARC is a great service to the farming commodities in Potohar region. It is not only helping us to increase our income and improve the living standard but is also helping to keep farming commodity healthy. (Malik Asif Nawaz, Ex- General Sectary of Canola Growers in Potohar, Village Bhalote, Fateh Jang Area.

## Contributors:

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## Challenge

- Pakistan meets 70% of its domestic requirements of edible oil (22 m t) through imports, spending Rs.187.1 billion during 2010-11.
- With the increase in population and per capita increase in consumption, this trend will not only continue but will further worsen.
- Low yields due to cultivation of traditional low yielding varieties have been playing a negative role in the low productivity in the country.
- The challenge was to minimize/ or end edible oil import bill through increased oilseed production by increasing per acre yield.

## Interventions

- In early 1980s, PARC took initiative to overcome the ever increasing deficit of edible oil through research on quality improvement of rapeseed oil (Canola) in Pakistan.
- In 1983-84, research on canola started at NARC with introduction of Canadian canola cultivar the "Webstar in Barani Agricultural Research Project (BARD) in collaboration with Canadian Institute for Development in Agriculture (CIDA).
- During early 1990s, Canola cultivation flourished with the introduction of new high yielding Australian cultivars Shiralee, Dunkeld, Oscar, Rainbow and Range.
- During 1996-97, research on the development of open pollinated canola type varieties was initiated under BARD project.
- In late 1990s, research was also initiated on the development of high yielding canola hybrids.
- In 2003, under ALP project efforts were concentrated for the development of indigenous canola hybrids.
- During 2007-2011, under RADP project research was carried out for development of more inbred lines for making hybrid combination and evaluation.

## Outcome

- In 1996, three canola type varieties namely CON-I, CON-II and CON-III were released by NARC scientists.
- In 1991, Private Sector (ICI-Pakistan) also introduced three canola hybrids Hyola-42, Hyola-308 and Hyola-401 from Australia/Canada for the promotion of canola and enhancing its production in the country.
- From 1996 to 2005, the Oilseeds Research Program provided about 200 tons seed of canola varieties to the farmers.
- In 1995-86, PARC first time extracted canola oil from the local production and marketed it as **Mumta canola** through Utility Stores. This resulted in the establishment of different oil industries in the country marketing pure/ branded canola oil i.e., Season canola oil, Kisan canola oil, Dalda canola oil, Habib canola oil, etc.
- In 2007, NARC developed two more canola varieties (PAKOLA and Canola Raya) and 210 tones seed of Pakola was provided to the farmer by NARC and the Pakistan Oilseeds Development Board (PODP).
- In 2010 -11, first **Canola Hybrid (PARC CANOLA)** was developed having yield at par with imported canola hybrid Hyola-401.
- In years 2010-11 and 2011-12, respectively, the hybrid canola seed amounting 8 and 12 tons, respectively, was marketed at half the price of private sector.

## Way Forward

- Development of more uniform and competitive parent lines
- Testing of more hybrid combinations to identify higher yielding and stress tolerant hybrids.