

A new dawn in plant breeding: Australian Plant Breeding Academy

Thursday, November 25th, 2021

The University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine is partnering with Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd (AGT) on a new academy to take Australia's plant breeding into the future.

Contact Profile

The Australian Plant Breeding Academy will lead a new era in research and education in Australia. This includes the development of a new research program aligned with priority crops and traits to break new ground in plant breeding.

The partnership will also see the appointment of a Breeding Research Fellow responsible for the Academy's breeding research portfolio, and the establishment of multiple PhD scholars in plant breeding, the first of which will commence in 2022.

Both the University and AGT have a proud and successful history of involvement in commercial plant breeding programs, including bread wheat, durum wheat, barley, canola, lupins, triticale and faba beans. The new Academy will build on this enduring legacy of achievement.

Equally, both organisations are committed to producing the next generation of plant breeders and plant breeding scientists, to secure the industry's ongoing success.

The academy is believed to be the first of its kind for plant breeding in Australia, and will deliver significant benefits to the industry in the medium to long-term.

Professor Jason Able from the University of Adelaide's School of Agriculture, Food and Wine said:

"The success of the University's breeding endeavours over the past 60-plus years can be found throughout the Australian agricultural industry today.

"Under the new Academy, we have the opportunity to continue our role in this area, and maintain our very strong connection with industry."

Professor Anton Middelberg, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), the University of Adelaide, said: "The University is delighted to continue its long association with plant breeding through this new strategic partnership.

"The partnership brings together a leading institution and the nation's foremost grain technology company, both of which are committed to driving future innovation and excellence in research and education in Australia's agricultural sector."

AGT CEO and Head of Breeding Haydn Kuchel said: "Through its activities in education and breeding research, the Australian Plant Breeding Academy will lift the capability of the agrifood sector across Australia and maximise future profits for growers."

AGT Head of Science and Business Development Tristan Coram said: "AGT has a long history of engagement in both undergraduate and postgraduate education, and we see the expansion of this effort under the new Academy as crucial for the long-term sustainability of Australian agriculture."

Photo captions:

Jason with UG Students in Faba Beans - Professor Jason Able mentoring current undergraduate students (L-R) Darien Olson (B. Information Technology), Darcy Lapidge (B. Viticulture & Oenology), and Thomas Follett (B. Agricultural Sciences) in the art of faba bean crossing and plant breeding selection decisions. Supplied by University of Adelaide.

5930 AGT Harvest - AGT harvesting wheat breeding plots at Roseworthy SA. Supplied by AGT.

0901 - Plants growing in AGT's glasshouse facility for crossing of varieties. Supplied by AGT.

DSC_5082 - AGT glasshouse team preparing lupin flowers for crossing of varieties. Supplied by AGT.

BACKGROUND

About Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd

Australian Grain Technologies (AGT) serves Australian farmers and the world's population by developing new crop varieties that are more productive, better quality and/or cost less to grow. AGT is the leading provider of wheat varieties in Australia and is working toward achieving the same status in our other crops, barley, durum, canola, and lupins. AGT wants its products to contribute to the prosperity of Australian farmers and the nourishment of the global population.

Learn more at www.agtbreeding.com.au

About University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide is a world-class research and teaching institution centred on discovering new knowledge, pursuing innovation and preparing the educated leaders of tomorrow. The University has a long and outstanding history in agricultural education and research, which underpins the success of Australia's agricultural industries.

Learn more at www.adelaide.edu.au

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