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OKLAHOMA & ARKANSAS GROWERS TO BENEFIT FROM HIGH ERUCIC ACID RAPESEED OFFERED BY TCI

Oil from premium specialty crop used around the globe in manufacture of plastics and more

Stillwater, Okla., July 2, 2008 – Technology Crops International (TCI), a global leader in high-value specialty oilseed crops, announces fall contract availability to local growers for high erucic acid rapeseed (HEAR). Like canola, HEAR belongs to the plant genus *Brassica napus*, and is identical to canola in all respects except for the erucic acid content of the oilseed. While canola oil contains less than 2% erucic acid, the oil from HEAR contains more than 45% erucic acid. The premium crop offers the most economical source of this long-chain fatty acid, used extensively in the manufacture of plastics, and in personal care products, pharmaceuticals and foods. The announcement by TCI follows three years of highly-successful field trials conducted at multiple sites in Oklahoma in partnership with Oklahoma State University.

Utilizing two elite fall-seeded crop varieties, TCI was able to achieve superior results with the crop in trials across Oklahoma. One variety is from Dekalb and the other from a leading specialty crop breeder in Europe. These exclusive varieties have demonstrated proven performance in trials conducted in Altus, Chickasha, Fort Cobb, Lahoma, Stillwater and Miami.

Growers reap huge benefits by producing HEAR

“High erucic acid rapeseed offers a new, highly profitable fall-growing option to growers in Oklahoma and the northwest section of Arkansas,” says Adrienne Compton, director of crop production at Technology Crops International. “Wheat growers who include this crop in their field rotation this fall will see progressive benefits: it diminishes rye, improves subsequent wheat yields by 10-15%, and—even though wheat has been very profitable this year—HEAR earns approximately \$250 per acre more than wheat.”

According to Cropping Systems Extension Specialist, Dr. Chad Godsey with the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University, “Many parts of Oklahoma have been growing continuous winter wheat for several years and have developed increased weed pressure. Wheat is a valuable commodity crop for many Oklahoma producers, so it’s important that growers maintain its high quality. Crop rotation is the best way to increase wheat grain quality and yield. The weeds that have become a problem in our continuous wheat cropping systems can be controlled relatively easily in *Brassica napus*.”

Growers who have grown canola also stand to profit from growing HEAR. According to Compton, “One of the varieties we are offering on contract was the highest average yielding variety of *Brassica napus* across all regions of Oklahoma in our trials. It produced an average yield of 3,449 pounds per acre, 10% higher than the highest-yielding canola. Our growers

receive a premium of \$1.50 per hundredweight over canola, plus outstanding yields to boot. Collectively, this generates revenue of \$80.00 per acre over canola.”

“This truly represents a windfall for canola growers,” continues Compton. “HEAR is grown in exactly the same manner as canola, yet pays a significant premium and provides much higher yields of up to two tons per acre. The only difference in the two crops is the oil composition. Even the meal byproduct is identical to canola meal for use in animal feed applications.”

Further, TCI contracts for HEAR include full Act of God coverage, and HEAR is eligible for crop insurance, so there’s no risk to growers.

Expert resources help ensure grower success

Jimmy Meeks, a first-time grower of HEAR who just recently harvested some 200 acres of the crop, says he learned a lot from his experience growing HEAR in the trial and would grow it again. “I would tell other growers to jump in there with both feet and try some of it,” Meeks states. “It seems to be an easy crop to raise.”

Team members at TCI have extensive experience managing the crop and will provide agronomic support to growers continuously from planting this fall through to harvest next June. Based on input from Meeks, TCI is currently recruiting for a full-time agronomist to specifically oversee contracted acres in Oklahoma and western Arkansas. “We are committed to helping producers in this area capitalize on the outstanding benefits offered by this premium crop,” explains Compton.

TCI has also secured local grower resources in order to ensure ease of growing, delivery and processing. For example, TCI is working with Producers Cooperative Oil Mills (PCOM), W.B. Johnston Grain Company and W.B. Johnston Seed Company.

Gene McVey, president of Johnston Seed Company, believes new crops like HEAR are important to the future for agricultural producers in the region. “We need to keep our kids on the farm and hopefully products like high erucic acid rapeseed will do that. HEAR and canola are identical to grow and we know that canola is excellent in rotation with other grains and leaves the seed bed in ideal condition for the following crop. When a cereal crop is grown following canola, the yield can be absolutely huge, so it stands to reason the same is true for HEAR,” says McVey. “Growers just need to be mindful of using good identity preservation practices, as this specialty crop has different genetics from canola.”

Robust demand shows no slowdown

Valued as a premium renewable— yet cost-effective— raw material, the oil from HEAR is used in the manufacture of polymers, petroleum additives, pharmaceuticals, foods and personal care products. In particular, its non-food uses cannot be replaced by other plant or mineral oils, and fortunately for growers, demand is not subject to governmental energy policies.

Currently, European and Canadian growers fulfill the majority of the global demand for the oil from HEAR, but now the Oklahoma region of the U.S. is projected to become a major world producer. "Demand for this oil is strong both domestically and internationally, so this is very much a long-term, sustainable opportunity for Oklahoma growers. Across the board, we find industries are seeking more functionally-superior ingredients from agriculture," says Compton.

Grower meetings

TCI expects to conduct approximately 20 grower meetings in the state in July and August in preparation for the September/October planting season. Interested growers and suppliers, such as seed dealers, elevator operators and crush facilities, should contact TCI at (877) 780-5882. Grower meeting dates and locations will be posted on the company's Web site at www.TechCrops.com.

About Technology Crops International

Technology Crops International is a global leader in the evaluation, development, commercialization and delivery (supply chain management) of new and high-value strategic oils from oilseed crops such as high erucic acid rapeseed, high oleic sunflower, meadowfoam, cuphea, lesquerella, camelina and echium. The company offers a full spectrum of expert services in specialty crop contracting and serves the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, industrial chemical, specialty nutrition and medical foods industries. With offices in the U.S. and the U.K., Technology Crops International supplies clients around the world with safe, sustainable, traceable and cost-competitive crop-derived products.

