Two Years In Review: Canola Variety Evaluation Trials (CVET)

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Independent third-party evaluation of commercial crop varieties is a common practice which promotes transparency and cross-commodity comparison for both farmers and seed companies (e.g. Australia's "National Variety Trials"). Through a survey of more than 400 Manitoban farmers and agronomists, third-party seed testing data was indicated as being highly-valued for being unbiased and reliable, especially if variety performance can be reported locally. Manitoba Canola Growers Association (MCGA) initiated the Canola Variety Evaluation Trials (CVET) program in 2024 to provide farmers with independent third-party field testing data for commercial canola hybrid performance across Manitoba. Through the oversight of a technical committee constituted by representatives of industry and academia, CVET protocol was designed, include a randomized complete block design (RCBD) of medium-sized plots (30-60m^2) with 4 replicates of each variety per site, and separate trial areas for Liberty Link and Roundup/TruFlex varieties. Canola seed companies were approached in 2024 and 2025 to enter varieties in CVET – a total of 21 varieties were tested across two growing seasons, including 7 varieties consistent across both. Yields ranged from 48 bu/ac to 64.1 bu/ac across both seasons. Future planning prioritizes promoted inclusion of popular canola varieties in MB.