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Media Release

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La Trobe, the new potential malting Hindmarsh from Syngenta Collaboration

- **La Trobe offers growers in medium to low rainfall districts similar yields to Hindmarsh with malt quality suited to export brewing industries**
- **Preliminary results look positive for Australian Malting and Brewing Accreditation in early 2014**
- **Growers and agronomists should consider La Trobe for the upcoming season to take advantage of this new opportunity**

The official naming of new barley variety IGB1101 as La Trobe at the Australian Barley Technical Symposium today signifies improved export opportunities for Australian growers in medium to low rainfall areas.

Developed as part of an ongoing collaboration between Syngenta and InterGrain, La Trobe, owned by DPI Victoria, offers similar yields to Hindmarsh, the yield benchmark in medium to low rainfall districts, with an improved malt quality.

Syngenta Head of Cereals Australasia Ben Miles says the export malt quality of La Trobe provides an opportunity for barley growers in southern regions to capitalise on potential premiums for malting quality grain as well as reap Hindmarsh yields.

"The feedback we're getting from maltsters is that there's a gap in the market for a high quality export malt variety that is adapted to these growing areas," says Ben.

"We are hopeful that La Trobe will become an accredited export malt variety, providing growers with all the benefits of growing Hindmarsh, which they like, plus giving them full potential to access a decent malt premium."

InterGrain barley breeder David Moody says La Trobe is undergoing Australian Malting and Brewing Accreditation and he is positive about the outcome.

"La Trobe has passed year one of the two year accreditation process. Preliminary feedback suggests it's progressing well in year two and we expect a final result in early 2014," says David.

A sister to Hindmarsh, La Trobe comes from David's old DPI Victoria breeding stable. It's a derivative of elite DPI breeding line, VB9409 and high yielding feed variety Dash.

"The early maturing semi-dwarf variety has good straw strength, lodging resistance and head retention, plus excellent grain plumpness and test weight," says David.

"La Trobe has a well-rounded disease package, similar to Hindmarsh, with a potential improvement in leaf rust resistance, due to the expression of adult plant resistance. It also possesses Cereal Cyst Nematode (CNN) resistance and exhibits a high level of pre-harvest sprouting tolerance".

Brothers David and Jeremy Barlow, from Barlow Agricultural, grow wheat, canola and barley between Jerilderee and Boree Creek. This year they're growing Baudin, Hindmarsh and Scope, and have 260 ha of La Trobe as a trial. Quality won't be known until harvest, but David's happy with how La Trobe is going.

"It certainly looks good at the moment. It's tillered well, the straw looks strong on it and we don't seem to have much disease in it," he says.

If yields and malting quality live up to promise, David's keen to consider La Trobe.

"We're looking for another variety and if the malsters are interested in it, that's what we want. We've got to grow what the malsters want," says David.

Several commercial crops have been grown across Australia, with 1600 hectares in the ground this year and an expected production of 5000 tonnes. This is largely destined for malting and brewing trials to support the development of international markets. Syngenta and InterGrain view market development as a critical stage in the release of new varieties and actively work with industry to assist the process.

National Variety Trials in medium to low production environments demonstrate La Trobe's superior yield compared to Buloke, Commander and Gairdner and suggest La Trobe is still a competitive alternative in higher production regions (>3.5t/ha).

With high yields and a malt quality similar to international benchmark Baudin, growers and agronomists should consider La Trobe for the upcoming season to take advantage of new opportunities, particularly in medium to low rainfall areas.

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