



Wilson CV

Robert (Rob) Wilson has a long and distinguished career with Pioneer Hi-Bred, over 35 years and to the present day. Rob started in 1981 as a Seed Production Agronomist before being offered an opportunity in research, in 1988. His work ethic, conscientiousness, meticulous eye for detail and aptitude for research was soon recognised and between 1988 to 1996 Rob worked as a successful Lucerne (Alfalfa) breeder. In just eight years, Pioneer Hi-bred and Rob released five new lucerne varieties, that became widely grown and included L90, L52 & L69. In this period Rob managed Lucerne research projects, generating data which clarified future breeding directions. One of these research projects in central Victoria, Australia showed the true genetic potential of Lucerne growing under optimum conditions to be 36 tonne Dry Matter/ha. In 1996, Rob relocated to Wagga Wagga, New South Wales with Pioneer to set up their Australian Canola research program. Over the following 18 years, Robert bred and released 33 canola varieties (5- Non HT, 21 - Clearfield, & 7 - Roundup Ready lines), each regarded as benchmark varieties at the time of release for their yield, oil characteristics and agronomic package. Rob's successes in canola breeding was further highlighted with the launched the first Clearfield® and Roundup Ready® canola hybrids into the Australian market.

In addition to canola commitments, Rob recently collaborated with LLS and DPI as a co-writer of the *Lucerne management online* Short Course, sharing his experience, research data and passion for the lucerne plant.

Rob has long been an active grains industry representative and is the immediate Past President of the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF), the peak oilseeds body within the Australian grains industry, and a former President of the Canola Association of Australia (CAA). Rob is a well-travelled Plant Breeder internationally with an extensive network around the world. Rob is an effective communicator, as comfortable with plant breeders, scientists, farmers and marketing executives as his beloved canola plots. Rob is familiar with agronomic challenges and growing conditions for canola around the globe. Rob's current role with Pioneer is Canola Market Development Manager based in Wagga Wagga.