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# Market Release

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## Final Results for Hexima's 2007/08 Cotton Field Trials

Hexima Limited (Hexima) today announced the final results of the 2007/08 season cotton field trials of its defensin technology.

"Hexima's defensin field trials aim to demonstrate that the technology is effective against a broad spectrum of fungal disease and that there are no unexpected effects on the health and productivity of plants," explained Hexima's Chief Executive Officer, Joshua Hofheimer.

"The 2007/08 field trials, conducted in Coker cotton in the Darling Downs in Queensland and the Namoi Valley in northern New South Wales, have been successful in achieving each of these objectives."

Two trials were assessed at sites with significant disease loads.

**Fusarium trial, Darling Downs:** The measure of success in the fusarium trial is increased survival rates and yield. The defensin-modified plants had more than twice the survival rate of the control plants and more than three times the lint yield per hectare. This was Hexima's second trial testing against fusarium wilt and confirmed the outstanding results achieved in 2006/07.

**Verticillium trial, Namoi Valley:** The measure of success in the verticillium trial is increased yield. The defensin-modified plants delivered up to twice the lint yield per hectare, compared with the control plants. This was Hexima's first trial against verticillium wilt.

A trial was conducted at a third site to test the impact of the defensin trait in the absence of significant disease load.

**Agronomic trial, Darling Downs:** This trial demonstrated that there were no obvious adverse effects and no yield penalty on defensin-modified plants grown under these conditions.

Hexima has now tested over 10,000 transgenic defensin plants.

Coker (a particular cultivar), is commonly used by seed companies for testing new technology in cotton. The strength of Hexima's field trial results indicates that the new technology is commercially significant with increased yield potential and no adverse effect on the plants. As one of the next steps in Hexima's commercial development strategy for these cotton traits, the Company will seek to engage a commercial partner in a program to confirm the improved performance provided by its technology in elite, market-ready varieties.

Hexima has now demonstrated that its technology is effective in the field against two major global and economically important fungal pathogens of cotton, Verticillium and Fusarium, which cause wilt diseases. In addition, both of these fungi and other closely related fungi cause disease in a range of other commercial crops worldwide.

Hexima Limited is an ASX-listed agribusiness company (ASX Code: HXL) developing innovative gene technologies to help farmers meet growing demands for food and fibre by improving yields from arable land. Hexima's core technologies aim to increase the yield of commercial crops by enhancing their resistance to insects and fungal pests.

Visit [www.hexima.com.au](http://www.hexima.com.au) for more information.

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