

Dr Doza Chowdhury hailed from Jessore a Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh graduate. Back home he used to work with Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) as a plant breeder. After migrating Australia in 90's he used to work with South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) at University of Adelaide. Later he moved to Narrabri, NSW to work with NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) until he died of heart attack in December 2006. His most of the work at Narrabri was associated with Faba bean breeding. As recognition of his hard and dedicated work NSW DPI named one of the recent released varieties in his name.

- Moazzem

Doza to set pulses racing in warmer climes

A new faba bean variety, Doza*, will soon get pulses racing in New South Wales and southern Queensland – offering improved rust resistance, enhanced seed quality and increased yield potential for growers.

Doza has been bred for better adaptation to warmer spring weather in sub-tropical areas of northern NSW and southern Queensland and is a vastly improved planting option compared to existing varieties Cairo, Barkool and Fiord.

Plant breeder Dr Ian Rose selected Doza at the Australian Cotton Research Institute in Narrabri. Breeding was supported by grower funding through the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Exclusive marketing rights to the new variety have been granted to ABB Seeds.

ABB Seeds General Manager, Garry Goucher, said Doza was no slouch and had shown in Narrabri trials that it flowered 10 to 14 days earlier than Cairo allowing more time for grain filling before warm temperatures induce plant maturity.

"One of the key advantages of Doza over the current faba bean varieties in northern NSW is its exceptional yield," Mr Goucher said. "Doza can yield up to 12% higher than Cairo and 17% higher than Barkool."

Mr Goucher said Doza was resistant to rust and had similar nitrogen-fixing capacity to other faba bean varieties: "Tests have demonstrated that well-inoculated faba bean crops in northern New South Wales can contribute around 270kg/ha to soil nitrogen levels, much higher than chickpeas and other legumes.

"Doza is recommended as an alternative to Cairo in central New South Wales and as a replacement for all current faba bean varieties in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland," he said.

** Doza faba bean was named in honour of the late Dr Doza Chowdhury, former technical officer with the ACRI.*