

Update: September 2021  
Location: Dookie, VIC

## A virtual visit to BASF's Dookie Innovation Site

Mid-season field walks at company trial sites usually give farmers and agronomists multiple chances to see for themselves how new products and varieties are performing under local conditions and catch up with the latest news.

Over the last two seasons, of course, those opportunities have been much more limited.

One of BASF's key 2021 sites is located in the grounds of Dookie Agricultural College, where the trials showcased the performance of their latest pre-emergent herbicides and the country's first LibertyLink® canola varieties.

This year, with all the sites accessible at some stage, the company conducted in-field tours when possible, but also captured agronomic videos and photographic plot comparisons for their online Innovation Site.

Ben White, BASF's Area Sales Manager for Central and South-East Victoria, says conditions were testing for both people and products.

"We've had a few groups through the site, but not nearly as many as we normally would due to restrictions."

If you missed the chance to get to the site in-person, you only have to go as far as the BASF website and choose from the gallery of photos to compare the success of the various treatments side-by-side. There are also some videos shot at sowing and 45 days later. Go to **[crop-solutions.basf.com.au/innovationsites](https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au/innovationsites)** or type 'BASF Dookie' into your search engine. Other Victorian sites including Lake Bolac and Longerenong are also featured under 'Other Sites'.

For the pre-emergent products, the focus was on weed control and crop safety. "It's been a tough year," Ben says.

"There was really high ryegrass pressure and the crops were sown into dry soil – although with plenty of rain from then on."

"Both new Voraxor® and Luximax® have performed really well in various combinations pre-emergent in wheat. There were no reported crop effects and you can see from the photos online how good the weed control was."

The photos on the BASF Innovation Site also show at least one clear difference between the canola plots at Dookie: the company's first LR variety (with both LibertyLink and TruFlex

herbicide tolerances) in the plot sprayed with Liberty herbicide had the most biomass by far at that stage and looked well set for success.

That variety – scheduled for launch in 2023 – is in the NVTs this year and its yield performance will be worth catching up with.

The company's recently revamped website is a sign of things to come, as the company's Technical Services Manager Phil Hoult explains. "We have some very ambitious plans to increase the digital tools we'll be offering agronomists and growers to help them interpret what's happening in the paddock. Our team here in Australia is constantly adapting the results of the company's global research to benefit local farmers and we're currently working towards launching some new smartphone technologies that can both identify crop impacts and potential threats and suggest strategies for managing them."

For more information or to visit BASF's Innovation Sites visit: <https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au/innovation-sites>