Field Pea CVT Demonstration

Aim: Assess the potential of the new Field Pea variety Kaspa against established varieties.

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Company: Liebe Group, DAWA

Farmer: Hedley Falls
Location: West Pithara

Background:

Field peas are an adaptable crop that can be used in rotation to decrease the build up of pests and diseases in cereals. While yields of new varieties have surpassed Dundale, harvest continues to be a major production issue. Kaspa, a variety released by the Victorian Department of Agriculture, is a semi-leafless stiff stemmed variety that stands well at harvest. There are three major reasons that Kaspa is easier to harvest.

1. Plant structure; stiff stemmed to reduce lodging and tendrils to allow the crop to flow as a mat.
2. Plant growth pattern; late flowering and rapid pod fill ensure pods are set on the top third of the plant.
3. Sugar pod trait which results in stronger pods and less shattering.

Trial Details:

Plot size and replication	100m x 15m, 3 replicates
Soil type	Red Loam, Salmon/Gimlet
Sowing date	25th June
Conditions at sowing	Drying
Machinery	5 rows, Primary Boots
Seeding rate	80 kg/ha
Fertiliser	100 kg/ha MAPTE 30%/ NPK 70%
Herbicides and Insecticides	Roundup 24/6 2L, 2L Sprayseed, 2L Treflan
Paddock History	2003 = Wheat, 2002 = Pasture, 2001= Wheat

Results:

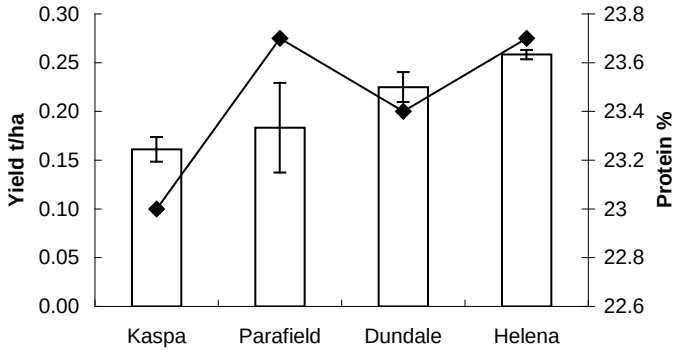

Figure 1: Yield (mean +/- SE, bars) and protein (lines) for a number of Field Pea varieties.

Summary:

- Overall yields were low in this trial, mainly due to poor establishment and a heavy weed burden.
- Kaspa was the lowest yielding variety. This could have been due to the heavy insect damage that was very noticeable in Kaspa pods.
- The insect damage was significantly higher in Kaspa than all other varieties, which may have been a result of its late maturing.
- Kaspa was released in Victoria and the late maturity of the variety would most probably cause reduced yields when sown into drying soils at late June.

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Technically reviewed by: Martin Harries