

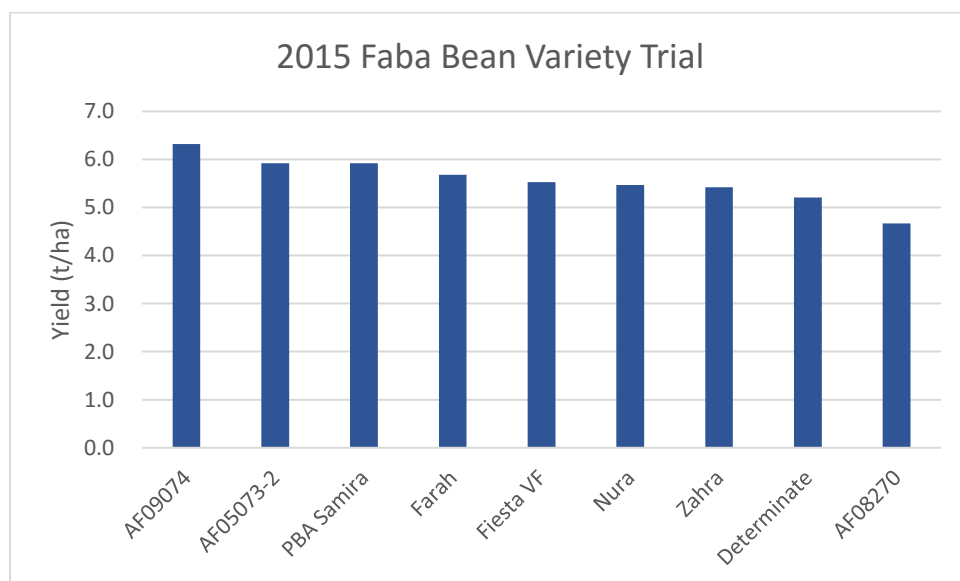
Faba Bean Variety Trial 2015

This trial was sown, following pre-irrigation, on May 4th, with variable sowing rates ranging 135 to 202 kg/ha based on seed size, aiming at 25 plants/m². Seed was treated with imidacloprid so as to deter aphids and reduce the likelihood of virus infection.

The trial received three fungicides during the season and a late insecticide application post flowering to control heliothis.

First spring irrigation was on September 7th, the second on September 18th. And the third on October 3rd and the fourth irrigation on October 16th.

Harvested on December 2nd, the trial averaged 5.4 t/ha.



The least significant difference was 0.61 t/ha

Samira was released late 2014 and there should be more seed available this season. It has consistently performed better than Farah or Fiesta and with slightly improved disease resistance. PBA Zahra (AF05095-1) has also been released and is similar to Rana, a larger sized faba bean. AF05073-2 has done quite well over several seasons under irrigation, but there still is an issue of small bean size. AF08207 was showing a lot of promise over a wide range of environments but did not perform well in 2015, which may indicate that it is more sensitive to heat at early podding resulting in pod abortion.

The "Determinate" line is interesting as unlike the other fabas, it doesn't continue flowering until the environment becomes too hostile (indeterminate growth), i.e. vegetative growth above the pods, wasting energy and moisture on flowers that will never fill. The "determinate" plants stopped flowering at the end of September, terminating in two or three pods. This does put a yield ceiling on the line, as they cannot keep flowering if the season is favourable. This feature is potentially quite good in yield limiting (dry) environments but it remains to see if the yield ceiling is too low for irrigation.

Longer term performance of the Fabas at Kerang.

Variety	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Ave
Zahra				138%	109%	117%	98%	116%
AF05073-2	114%	103%	115%	118%	108%	125%	107%	113%
AF08207					124%	128%	85%	112%
AF09169					119%	113%	101%	111%
Samira		103%	96%	110%	108%	114%	107%	106%
Fiesta	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Nura	92%	86%	100%	90%	109%	107%	99%	96%
Farah	82%	98%	89%	88%	100%	93%	103%	92%
Rana	106%	75%	68%	104%			88%	85%
Fiesta t/ha	3.7	5.8	6.5	3.3	5.5	4.8	5.5	5.3