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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Growing Sorghum on Last Year's Summer Crop Country Needs Extra Consideration**

Sorghum growers will need to take a low risk option this year, when planting back into country that had summer crop in it last year, according to HSR Seeds Marketing Manager, Kevin Collingridge. "There was a lot of sorghum planted last season, and this year is shaping up as another big crop. Many growers will be looking to plant sorghum back into last year's sorghum country that has had a short fallow, which can be a riskier option than long fallow paddocks. It is mainly the available soil moisture that is the limiting factor, but the amount of available soil nutrients will also need to be factored in, and a suitable fertiliser programme implemented.

Weed control may also be more of a challenge, simply because of the build up of summer crop weeds from the previous year. The recent rainfall events have added to the soil moisture profiles, and there are plenty of farmers ready to plant sorghum as soon as the soil temperatures are suitable there has already been a significant planting of sunflowers and maize, which can be planted at lower temperatures. What growers need to thinking about is, how to secure their harvest on the short fallow country. This will come down to manipulating row spacings and plant populations to achieve less risk if the season turns dry.

Lower populations are now becoming more accepted, and the use of improved planting equipment and techniques has meant there is a better establishment percentage of the seed sown. Variety selection will also play a major role in achieving the best results. "At HSR Seeds we continuously promote Yield Protection and Harvest Security as being more important and more relevant to the average sorghum grower than yield potential. There are plenty of good hybrids on the market that can achieve yields of 10 tonne per hectare, when everything is going right. What is more important is how they cope when the growing conditions fall away, if the season deteriorates." Our breeding programme is heavily focused on providing hybrids that will do well under harsher environments, but can still come home with big yields if the season is kind.

We are currently recommending three of our six hybrids for sorghum on sorghum country. These are **Dominator**, **Tiger** and **Liberty** white sorghum. All three are proven under tougher growing conditions, and Dominator has been a stand out and the first choice for many growers facing an uncertain season for many years now. All three have produced over ten tonne/hectare dryland, but their real value is that they are consistent and reliable across all growing areas, and have outperformed more fancied hybrids under tougher seasonal conditions.

Sorghum crops will need the best start they can get while moisture is available, and protection from soil insects will be paramount. HSR Seeds has just commissioned the newest seed treatment plant in Australia for the professional application of our new Select and Select Plus treatments. Select provides soil insect control using Cruiser®, while Select Plus also has ConcepII® seed safener added for use with Dual and Primextra herbicides. We are providing growers with an easy to use Variety Selection Chart this year to make their choice easier