



HSR Group Pty Ltd

ABN 44 121 286 922

PO Box 41

WONDAI QLD 4606 AUSTRALIA

Phone: 07 4169 0011

Fax: 07 4168 5920

www.hsrseeds.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

White Sorghum Much More Than a Novelty for Growers

Growing white sorghum is helping a number of end use industries to become more efficient, according to HSR Seeds Grain Sorghum breeder Rodney Coe. There are a number of well documented benefits from white sorghum grain that are now being widely recognized and accepted by various end users, he said. The benefits come from the different grain characteristics compared to red sorghums, including higher lysine levels, and less tannin than in red sorghums. This is expressed in a more nutritious feed that is suitable for all intensive livestock feeding industries. HSR Seeds has been working alongside the pork and poultry industries in developing more effective usage of these more beneficial feed values that are inherent in white sorghums. Along with that work, there has also been major interest from both dairy farmers and beef feedlot producers who can also quantify the extra benefits of the white sorghum grain. "We know that white sorghum is easier to steam flake and is easier on plant and machinery used in this process. We have feedlotters willing to pay a premium for the white grain over the normal red sorghum price because of this better utilization and the improved feed values. White sorghum is also playing a new role in gluten free food manufacture, and is now being used for the brewing of boutique beers in Australia. In 1991 there were over 50 grain sorghum hybrids on the market, of which 5 were white hybrids, said Mr. Coe, and now 17 years later, Liberty is the only white sorghum hybrid currently available in Australia. HSR Seeds understands that white sorghums will continue to play an increasing role in livestock feeding systems in future, and are committed to investing in ongoing research and development of these exciting highly nutritious grain types with improved feed value.

Liberty is a new style of white hybrid which has many traits not seen in white varieties before, such as excellent standability, staygreen drought tolerance and midge resistance, combined with the inherent genetic benefit white sorghum has of very high yields. Liberty is extremely adaptable has industry leading standability, and should have a place on any farm in Queensland growing grain sorghum, Mr. Coe added. It has also yielded over 11T/ha dryland and it outperformed all other hybrids on the market, except Enforcer in the NSW Ag Trial conducted at Premer in NSW last year. Mr. Coe said there was some confusion amongst growers believing they have to segregate the white grain, which is not correct, as Liberty is accepted as standard grain sorghum within the grains industry, and can be delivered to any grain receival depot accepting sorghum the same as any other red



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sorghum. Liberty white sorghum seed will be available in reasonable quantities this year, from an increased hybrid production as there has been a significant increase in the area of white sorghum planted over the last few seasons. “ It is one of the more pleasing sights in late summer, to see a paddock of bright white sorghum amongst the other fields of red sorghum”, added Mr. Coe. “It is something many farmers and visitors to our farming districts comment upon.”