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MEDIA RELEASE

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BIG CROWD FOR 30TH ANNUAL HART FIELD DAY

About 600 farmers and industry personnel gathered for the 30th annual Hart Field Day last Tuesday (September 18) to hear more than 30 speakers and researchers provide updates on the latest agronomy trials, varieties and technologies.

Visitors travelled from most cropping areas of the state, as well as some from as far as Western Australia, Victoria and even India and Japan and were greeted with a picture perfect outlook at the Hart site.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman Matt Dare said the group was thrilled with the success of the day.

“We had another great roll up and it’s a very fitting way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Hart,” he says.

“The crowd is testament to what we’re doing here. The site looks magnificent and we’ve really had a top quality program and speakers.

“Going forward we’re looking to continue the tradition and maintain the quality of research happening at the Hart Field-Site.”

Founding member of the field day, Kevin Jaeschke OAM, whose vision some 30 years ago helped cement the Hart Field Day’s position as one of the leading agronomy field days in Australia, was extremely proud of what he saw as he walked around the field day this year.

“Thirty years is a long time for this group to be functioning and I’m so pleased with the way this younger group continue what we began,” he says.

“We’ve had highs and lows, but the group now own this land and it’s all paid for.

“I think it’s great, it’s more than great. This field day has helped so many farmers and people in agribusiness.”

Dr Allan Mayfield has also been involved in the field day almost since its inception and gave an engaging lunch time speech to the crowd.

GRDC Southern Panel chairman David Shannon presented SARDI senior research scientist Rob Wheeler with the *Seed Of Light* award in recognition of his contribution to research and extension of crop variety information to growers across the state.

New technologies including the Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD) were on display, with Mid North growers given the opportunity to sign up to trial the HSD this harvest.

The rolling program also featured information on snail and weed control, varieties, agronomy and harvest management across a broad range of crops.

The perfect weather conditions for the field day could have only been topped by the forecast of rain on the horizon for some growers who are now looking for good, soaking rains in the next few weeks to bring home the harvest.

“There’s still good yield potential in crops around this area but we’re still very reliant on some critical rains from now on in,” Matt says.

“The yield prophet model at Hart is saying we’ve got 30 millimetres of plant-available water - that will last about a week so we’re certainly looking for those rains now.”

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