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MEDIA RELEASE

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GET A FREE HEADSTART TO THE GROWING SEASON

Farmers are being given the opportunity to get a 'free headstart' to the upcoming growing season, at the annual Getting The Crop In (GTCI) seminar at the Valley's Lifestyle Centre from 8am on Wednesday, March 6, 2013.

The Hart Field-Site Group's annual event enables growers to be armed with up to date information on the latest agronomy, crop trial, management and market information news well before the beginning of seeding.

The free event, sponsored by Rabobank, kicks off with a gourmet breakfast, and provides growers with direct access to some of the leading agricultural experts in Australia.

Far West Coast farmer Bryan Smith will be this year's keynote speaker and will share his experiences of 'farming on the edge' – moving from a safe cropping property at Laura to the state's furthest most westerly grain growing property and all the challenges of low rainfall, wombats, dingoes and camels that go with it.

Other key speakers will include Glencore state manager Ben Oliver speaking about the Glencore takeover of Viterro and how it affects you.

Rabobank's Global Financial Markets expert Campbell Keane will give an insight into how weather patterns are shaping grain markets, particularly the weather in South and North America as well as Russia, as well as an update on domestic and international grain markets.

SARDI's Rob Wheeler will give a cereal varieties update, which promises to again provide practical information to assist growers in variety selection.

The 2012 Hart Trials Results book will be released as Hart's trials manager Peter Hooper discusses some exciting key trial findings.

At the conclusion of the GTCI seminar, the GRDC will host its Farm Business Update from 1.30pm-4.30pm. Topics will include tax effective debt reduction strategies, the drivers of profit in farming systems, effective communication in farming businesses and maximising machinery and labour efficiency.

It is a great opportunity for growers to spend a day getting up to date with the latest agronomy and market news before the beginning of the 2013 growing season.

For more information see the Hart Field Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au . To RSVP please contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au before March 1, 2013. To register separately for the GRDC forum head to www.orm.com.au or call 03 5441 6176.

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