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MEDIA RELEASE

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Rice growers flock to Griffith for SunRice Harvest Demonstration Day

More than 130 rice growers today descended upon De Bortoli Wines, near Griffith, for the inaugural SunRice Rice Harvest Demonstration Day.

The day included a field walk of a rice trial examining automation in aerobic rice – which is non-flooded rice being examined to improve water productivity grown in well-drained, non-puddled and non-saturate soils.

Following the field walk, growers then observed live demonstrations of the latest range of headers in a rice crop being grown by De Bortoli Wines, and displays of other machinery, with representatives from Hutcheon and Pearce, Codemo Machinery, Bardney Engineering, JJ Farm Equipment, Serafin Ag Pro and Stevtech in attendance.

SunRice Chairman Laurie Arthur said there was energy and excitement from the growers who attended towards rice production.

“We’re in the midst of harvesting the 2021 Riverina rice crop – which is more than 10 times the size of last year’s crop – and shows that when our growers have good water availability they will plant rice,” Mr Arthur said.

“We know that rice is perfectly suited to the farming systems of the Riverina – as demonstrated by the fact that some 475 growers have planted the crop this summer.

“Events like today are a great opportunity for our growers to come together, swap ideas and learn about new innovations to help them remain at the cutting edge.

“After the last couple of really difficult seasons, there is a real buzz around rice production in the Riverina. We are the most water efficient rice industry in the world, and our growers are thrilled to be once again able to produce a crop that is then value-added into branded products and sold to consumers and customers around the world.”

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