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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **GIWA continues to work with oat growers on alternative herbicide options**

**14 March 2022**

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#### **Nufarm TriflurX Herbicide registration maintains oat growers use of trifluralin in 2022 and beyond as GIWA pursues testing and registration of other key herbicides for oats.**

In 2017, the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Oat Council, with the assistance of Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the then DAFWA (now Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development DPIRD), secured a minor-use permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority allowing the use of trifluralin as a pre-emergent herbicide on oats for the suppression of certain annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. This permit expires on 31st March 2022, but GIWA is pleased to report that Nufarm has now obtained registration for Nufarm TriflurX® Herbicide meaning trifluralin, a key tool for ryegrass control in oats, remains available to oat growers.

Western Australian growers produce one of the world's finest food-grade oat crops, and high-quality oaten hay for both export and domestic markets.

Ashley Wiese, GIWA Oat Council Chair and Highbury oat grower knows only too well that it is critical we maintain our reputation for safe, quality oat grain and hay through responsible chemical usage practices.

“Oats are a relatively small crop in Western Australia, but they are a major part of the cropping program for many high rainfall growers and for those in the export hay industry. GIWA is therefore very pleased that Nufarm has been able to achieve registration of TriflurX® in time for the 2022 growing season” says Ashley.

GIWA sees the lack of registered herbicide options for oats, which are generally seen by crop protection companies as a minor crop in Australia and therefore not worth the significant investment required to pursue registration of crop protection products, as a clear market failure. So, GIWA is encouraging crop protection companies to include oats in their trials when developing new products for wheat and barley and is actively seeking other ways to make the registration process simpler for crop protection companies.

“GIWA is keen to assist wherever it can to broaden the range of crop protection products, particularly herbicides, available to oat growers” says Ashley.

“The industry needs more options because across the board, the markets for oat grain and oaten hay are becoming ever more particular about purchasing clean, green oat products. To produce

grain and hay that is free of both unacceptable chemical residues and weeds, and to do this without inducing herbicide resistance through a reliance on too few chemical groups, growers need more herbicide options available to them.”

“GIWA has active participation from all sectors of the oat supply chain, so is uniquely placed to facilitate industry collaboration in this space, and recently applied for funding through the AgriFutures Export Fodder Program to help achieve this.”

Supported by funding from the state government funded Processed Oat Industry Growth Program and in-kind support from industry agronomists, DPIRD and InterGrain, GIWA’s AgriFutures grant application, if successful, will enable GIWA to facilitate testing of priority off-patent herbicide actives on oats, and provide this data to crop protection companies to assist them to more easily pursue the registration of priority actives.

“We encourage crop protection companies to pursue registration of in-patent herbicides at their own cost, and will assist wherever we can in that process, but the funding we have sought is for off-patent products, which are even harder to get crop companies to pursue registration for because the potential return to them is lower. GIWA wants to address this market failure for the good of the oat industry “ says Ashley.

GIWA will know the outcome of the first stage of its’ AgriFutures grant application by mid-March.

**END**

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