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# 2024 Rice Industry Awards

CY24 SunRice Grower of the Year Application

Celebrating our outstanding rice farmers

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# CY24 SunRice Grower of the Year

## Terms and Conditions

Applications are accepted by email only and close 5:00pm 14 June 2024.

### **The Prizes**

The winner will be announced at the Australian rice industry awards dinner and receives:

- An individual award and recognition on industry honour roll.
- \$5,000 to be spent on personal or business development.
- Two complimentary tickets to the Australian rice industry conference awards gala dinner.
- Member of the CY25 judging panel.
- Nomination for Australian Farmer of the Year Award.

The two runners up also receive two complimentary tickets to the Australian rice industry awards dinner.

### **The Process**

Stage 1: All entries are to be on the nomination form below and include a high resolution photo to be supplied as part of the application for the grower of the year.

Stage 2: Preliminary judging by a panel of three judges using the applicant's nomination form. Nominations will be reduced to a maximum of 5 businesses (referred to as finalists) that will move to stage 3.

Stage 3: On farm judging. The judging panel then visits each of the finalists' farms for a tour and interview of two hours duration. This tour will be held in July 2024. Finalists are encouraged to involve their staff and consultants in the farm tour. The farm tour should focus on those areas that most directly address the Awards Criteria and the areas of strength that have been identified in your initial nomination form.

*\*The finalists will be announced in June. Finalists will be required to participate in some media and promotional activities. This usually involves responding to requests from your local media and industry appointed communication representative for interviews, photos and/or quotes.*

*\*This year a Grower of the Year Field day is no longer a requirement for the winner.*

### **Judging**

Three independent judges are elected – 2 within the industry and 1 independent.

The judges will use the below criteria with weightings on each of the six categories.

The criteria (under each category) described in the score card below is to act as a guide only and isn't limited to this criteria.

### **Criteria**

1. A business can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else.
2. Nominees can be from farm businesses growing a minimum of 25 ha of rice (including share farmers) demonstrating high levels of achievement in the rice farm operation areas including:
  - Production and Agronomy.
  - Innovation and Technology.
  - Business Management.
  - WH&S.
  - Sustainability.
  - Industry and/or Community Involvement.
3. Yield and quality results will be obtained via SunRice records.
4. Nominations will be judged on the whole business not on a farm or crop basis.
5. Board members and employees of SunRice and employees of RGA and Rice Extension are ineligible to nominate.

## Terms and Conditions continued...

2024 SunRice Grower of the Year Scorecard	
Category	Criteria
<b>A) Production and Agronomy</b>  <b>(25% weighting)</b>	<p>The criteria used for assessment under this category includes farm yields from this season (CY24) and whole grain yield from CY23 (due to the time lag between delivery and the completion of testing).</p> <p>Other key areas of assessment will include your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddock preparation.</li> <li>• Spray programs.</li> <li>• Rotations of crops and chemicals.</li> <li>• Nutrient management programs and decision making information/tools utilised within these programs.</li> </ul>
<b>B) Water Use Efficiency, Innovation and Technology</b>  <b>(25% weighting)</b>	<p>The criteria used for assessment under this category will include innovation for water savings.</p> <p>What changes have you made to increase your water use efficiency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to your Irrigation layouts or infrastructure.</li> <li>• Changes in sowing method and or varieties.</li> <li>• Automation.</li> <li>• Double cropping.</li> </ul> <p>What technology changes have you implemented or adopted? <i>Examples include Precision ag: Use of Yield monitor and data, Auto steer, variable rate and section control and NDRE imagery/NDVI imagery.</i></p> <p>What innovation have you tried or developed such as farm trials/ demonstrations?</p>
<b>C) Business Management</b>  <b>(15% weighting)</b>	<p>Business management will be assessed verbally by focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interaction with external advisors. <i>Examples include Agronomist's, bank managers etc.</i></li> <li>• Management of staff including professional development. <i>Examples include external training, attending field walks.</i></li> <li>• Business plans: Short and long term plans including physical and financial goals.</li> <li>• Risk management plans and strategies.</li> <li>• Succession plans.</li> </ul>
<b>D) Sustainability</b>  <b>(25% weighting)</b>	<p>Sustainability will be assessed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rice Stubble management.</li> <li>• Chemical &amp; fertiliser use, records and storage.</li> <li>• Winter crop stubble management.</li> <li>• Crop and pasture rotations.</li> <li>• Water reuse and storage management.</li> <li>• Native game bird and non-game bird management compliance.</li> <li>• Water use.</li> <li>• Wildlife corridors and farm wetland-habitat provision. <i>Examples include Island in storage or wetland veg. in re-use system.</i></li> </ul>
<b>E) WH&amp;S</b>  <b>(5% weighting)</b>	<p>Work health and safety is becoming more of a focus on farms due to the proportionately high rate of accidents and deaths on farms.</p> <p>WH&amp;S will be assessed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant certificates held that are needed for operating a farm (such as Chemcert ticket).</li> <li>• Training provided and documented for all other staff members.</li> <li>• Safety guards and covers installed.</li> <li>• WH&amp;S plan for the business.</li> </ul>
<b>F) Industry and community involvement</b>  <b>(5% weighting)</b>	<p>List any community (school, sporting groups or special interest groups as well as committee's etc.) or industry involvement (representation or cooperation) that you have been a part of in the last 12 months.</p>

# CY24 Nomination Form

Please send your completed application and high resolution image to [riceextension@sunrice.com.au](mailto:riceextension@sunrice.com.au) before **5pm 24 May 2024**.

## Nominee's details.

Name. \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email. \_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Address. \_\_\_\_\_  
Town. \_\_\_\_\_

## Nominator's details.

Name. \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email. \_\_\_\_\_  
Connection to nominee. \_\_\_\_\_

## Background information.

Total farm size. \_\_\_\_\_ Area of rice for CY24. \_\_\_\_\_  
Other irrigated/non-irrigated crops (ha). \_\_\_\_\_ Number of staff (*employed or family in fte*). \_\_\_\_\_  
Livestock. \_\_\_\_\_

## Please answer the following questions which will be the basis of selecting the finalists.

*Dot points can be used to answer the questions. Please refer to the criteria for each category (on page 2) to assist with answering the questions as this will be the focus of the judges. Maximum 250 words.*

Q1. Describe how you have increased productivity and improved agronomy practices over the last three years.

Q2. Describe the practices you have adopted to increase water use efficiency, innovation and technology to increase productivity.

Q3. Describe how you manage your business (financial and physical) and any changes made over the last three years.

Q4. Describe practices that you have adopted to improve the sustainability of your rice farming system.

Q5. Describe the steps you have put in place to address Work Health & Safety on farm.

Q6. What industry and community involvement have you, family members or employees had in the last 12 months?

By signing below I agree to the Terms and Conditions of the competition as outlined above.

Name of Nominee. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominee. \_\_\_\_\_

## For Office Use Only.

Date of submission: \_\_\_\_\_ | High resolution imaged included: Y / N | Eligibility criteria met: Y / N



# Rice Extension

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For any questions please contact:

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