

HCPSL

Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.

Annual General Meeting- 2016.

AGM business

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Apologies
- ▶ Minutes of the previous meeting
- ▶ Business arising out of the minutes
- ▶ Annual Report and Financial Statements
- ▶ Business managers report
- ▶ Guest speaker- Dr. Geoff Garrett (Queensland Chief Scientist)



ADMINISTRATION



- ▶ The 2015/16 financials were duly audited and a copy is available for viewing.
- ▶ Grower membership is ~99.97% of area harvested- the largest grower membership of any voluntary Herbert industry support agency.
- ▶ Wilmar continues to be a member, matching dollar for dollar grower funding in the core service program.



ADMINISTRATION



- ▶ The 2015/16 budget has been approved by the HCPSL company directors.
- ▶ The total budget was set at \$8.46/ha for each the grower and miller to pay. Total of \$16.92/ha. There is no change in the service fee from last year.
- ▶ The external funded component of the HCPSL business is now significant, with external funding coming from Government projects, NRM groups, private companies (agri-chemical and fertiliser companies) and universities.



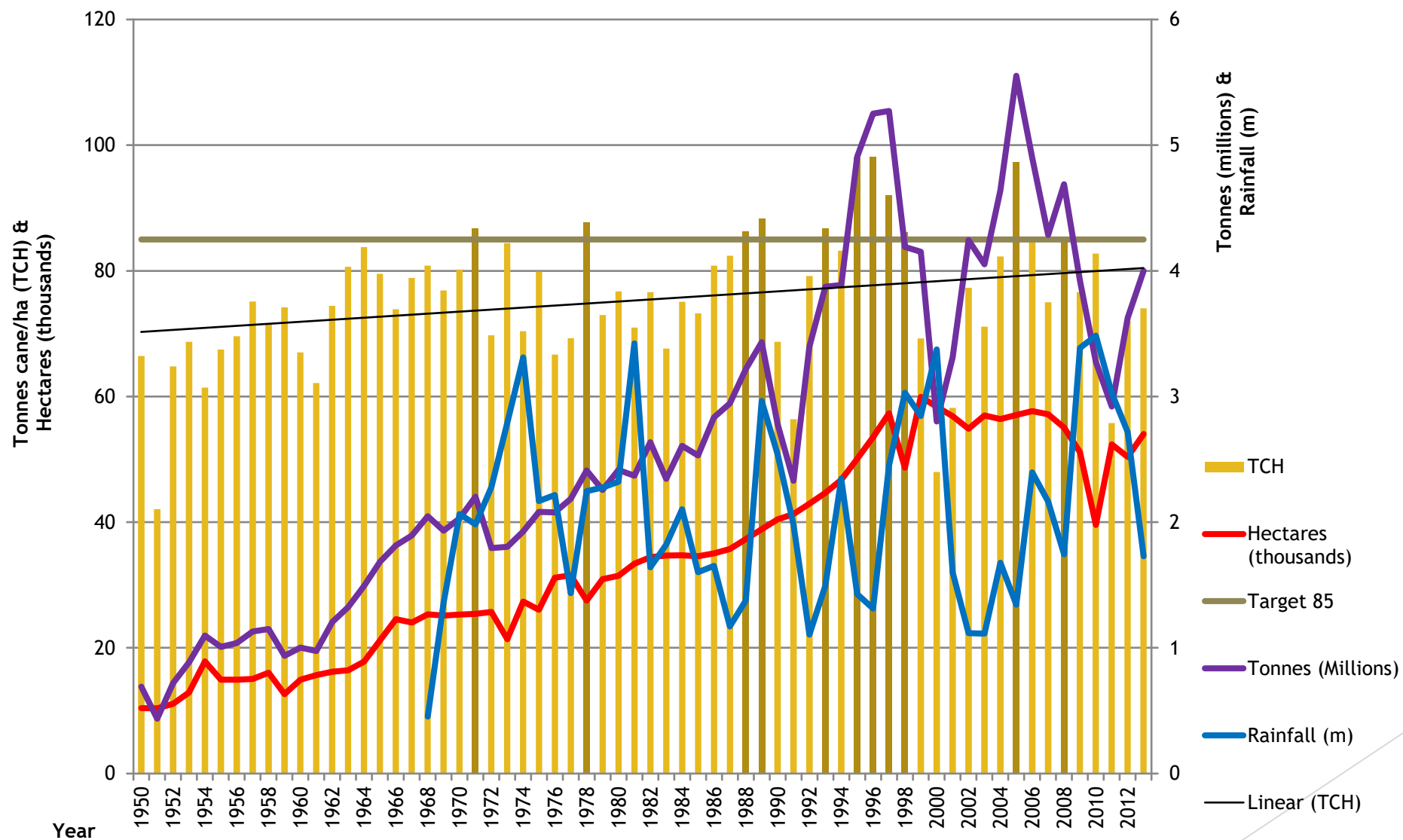
TARGET 85



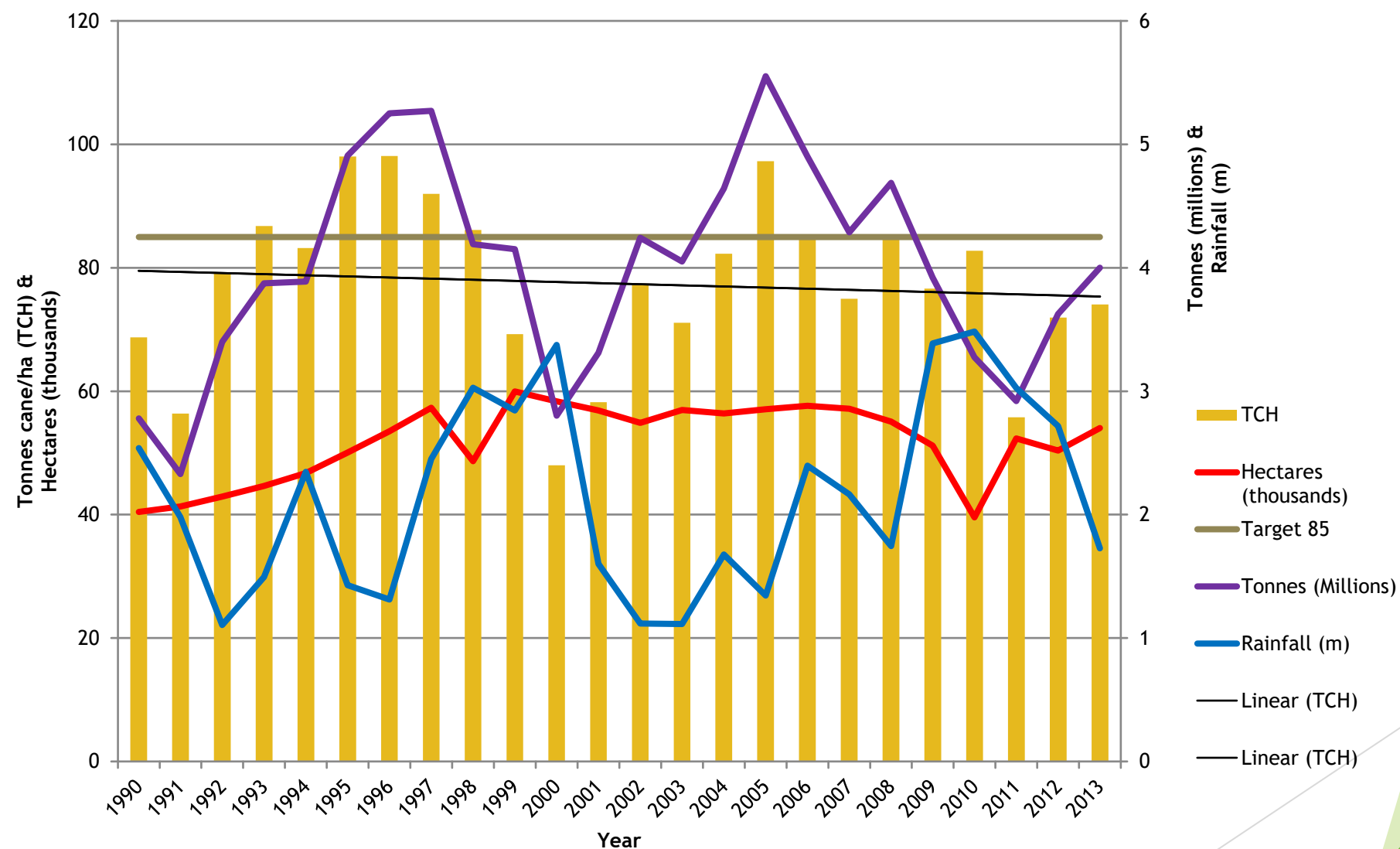
A HCPSL productivity initiative to get the Herbert industry to an 85tcph district average, in a sustainable manner. Launched at the 2013 AGM.

**LOOKS LIKE WE WILL HIT THE
TARGET IN 2016!**

Herbert River District Productivity from 1950 to 2013 (11 out of 64 years above 85 TCH)



Tonnes cane/ha (TCH), Rainfall, Total Hectares, and Total Tonnes Harvested from 1990 to 2013



TARGET 85



HCPSL key focuses

-for the 3 years.



1. Productivity

- ▶ Increase cane yields
- ▶ Variety development
- ▶ YCS
- ▶ NUE
- ▶ Harvesting systems
- ▶ Drainage and irrigation
- ▶ Pest and disease management that impact on productivity
- ▶ More robust farming systems
- ▶ Improvements in soil health
- ▶ Better use of mill by-products

TARGET 85



HCPSL key focuses

-for the 3 years.



2. Sustainability and environment

- ▶ NUE
- ▶ Better use of pesticides
- ▶ Water quality management
- ▶ Better management practices (BMP)
- ▶ Extension

3. Biosecurity

- ▶ Approved seed production
- ▶ Quarantine

4. Precision Agriculture and data systems

- ▶ Basestation operation
- ▶ Yield monitoring
- ▶ Soil mapping
- ▶ Variable rate and precision application
- ▶ Data mining and interpretation

TARGET 85



HCPSL key focuses

-for the 3 years.



5. Extension and Training

- ▶ Grower and industry extension and training
- ▶ Community awareness
- ▶ Youth development

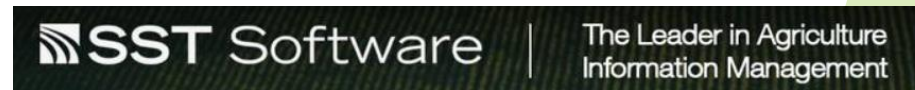
6. Harvest Management

- ▶ Improved cane consignment
- ▶ Improved block records

TARGET 85



Key partners to date:



Project Catalyst Partners



Driving **Target 85** within the business

The business will be split into 4 work units consisting of the following:

- ▶ Work unit 1- Precision agriculture, nutrient and data management.
Team members- Adam Royle, Mike Sefton, Rod Nielson (contract), Jarrod Sartor (contract), Melissa (part time- external funded) and Minka Ibanez (part time- external funded).
- ▶ Work unit 2- Farming systems (herbicide management, variety development, harvesting and farming systems).
Team members- Richard Hobbs, Ash Benson (casual- external funded), Sam Sellick, Linda Di Maggio (contract), Megan Zamhel (contract), Dion Cawthorne (casual)
- ▶ Work unit 3- Grower services, biosecurity, HCPSL farms.
Team members- Graeme Holzberger, Tony McClintock, casual field workers (Sam Lamari, Trevor Pallanza, William Tonto, Paul Greilinger and Ross Girgenti)
- ▶ Work unit 4- Corporate services, stakeholder enagement and administration
Team members- Lawrence Di Bella, Sue Becarris (4 days a week), Sandra Coco

Each work unit must aim for improvements in productivity, sustainability and knowledge.



Welcome to new HCPSL staff



- ▶ Richard Hobbs joined the team after Alex Peachey's resignation and Ash Benson's retirement.
- ▶ Richard brings a wealth of practical knowledge in farming systems, herbicides and crop nutrition.



Welcome to new HCPSL staff



- Megan Zamhel- Field Agronomist employed under Project Catalyst (3 year contract)



Project Catalyst Partners



TARGET 85



ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

Variety development and improvement

TARGET 85



Work undertaken with SRA:

- Planting of Introgression seedling trial at Macknade (~7000 clones)
- Harvesting of 1 Introgression plant can seedling trial at Macknade (~15,000 clones)
- Harvesting of 3 Introgression variety trials
- Planting of RVT trials
- Undertook variety recommendations for ~15% of the area planted through QCANE SELECT
- Release SRA5 to industry

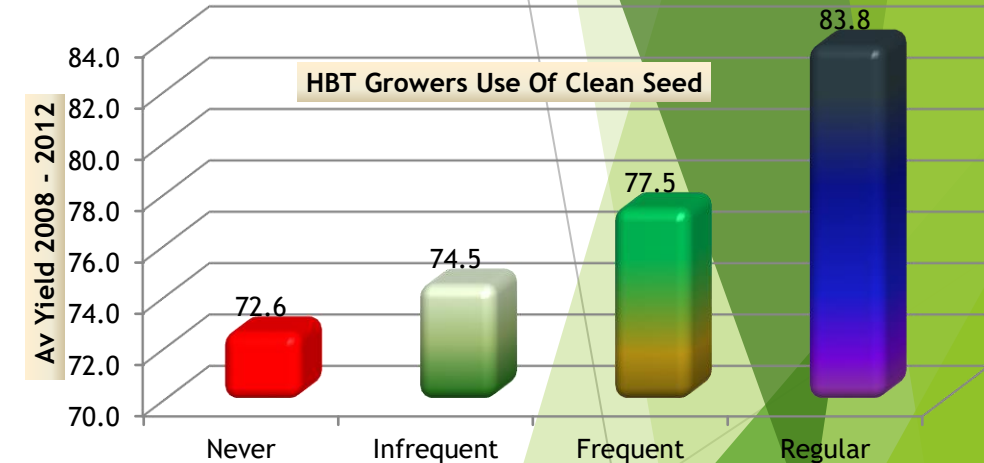


Investment in Approved Seed provision



- 2014- 1200 tonnes of cane purchased
200 tissue cultured plants purchased
110 tonnes hot water treated
- 2015- 842 tonnes of cane purchased
3500 tissue cultured plants purchased
93 tonnes hot water treated
- 2016- 1012 tonnes of cane purchased
2500 tissue cultured plants purchased
73 tonnes hot water treated

Productivity Benefits Of Clean Seed



Pest and disease management

- ▶ Since the 2015 *Pachymetra* survey results over 200 samples have been analysed for growers. Over 67% are above the economic threshold.
- ▶ Variety recommendations provided to better manage *Pachymetra*.
- ▶ Continued RSD inspection service.
- ▶ Extension concerning CSD management on ABC Landline (in conjunction with SRA)



YCS research



- HCPSL continues to work with SRA, UWS and BPS.
- We now have a good understanding of the cane plants bio-chemical processes associated with YCS.
- Trials indicate no yield advantage because of the use of Confidor.
- There is a link to crop stressors like *Pachymetra*, heat stresses, etc.
- To date the project has not found a link between a pest or disease at this stage.
- Trials established in the district.

YCS has been a difficult syndrome to research.



Harvesting research and extension.

- Wilmar and HCPSL funded the research and extension in harvester sugar losses.
- HCPSL, Wilmar, Norris ECT and SRA are undertaking harvesting R,D&E into:
 - Harvester speed and pour rate trials to assess the impact on ratoons, due to harvester operational speed.
 - Trials will be undertaken to assess a new chopper system and new basecutter disc type.
 - Billet and cane quality assessment.
 - Measuring of sugar loss associated with harvesting.
 - Data analysis concerning the impact of harvester speed and pour rate.



Precision Agriculture- Site Specific Management

- ▶ HCPSL continues its investment in the basestation network
- ▶ HCPSL has purchased a Dualem for soil mapping
- ▶ HCPSL undertaking projects with:
 - ▶ CSIRO (SRA funded project) to develop management zones based upon HCPSL yield maps.
 - ▶ UNSW (Terrain and HCPSL funded project) to manage sodic soils south of Ingham.
 - ▶ SST software pilot project (HCPSL funded project) to manage farm related data.



UNSW
AUSTRALIA



 SST Software

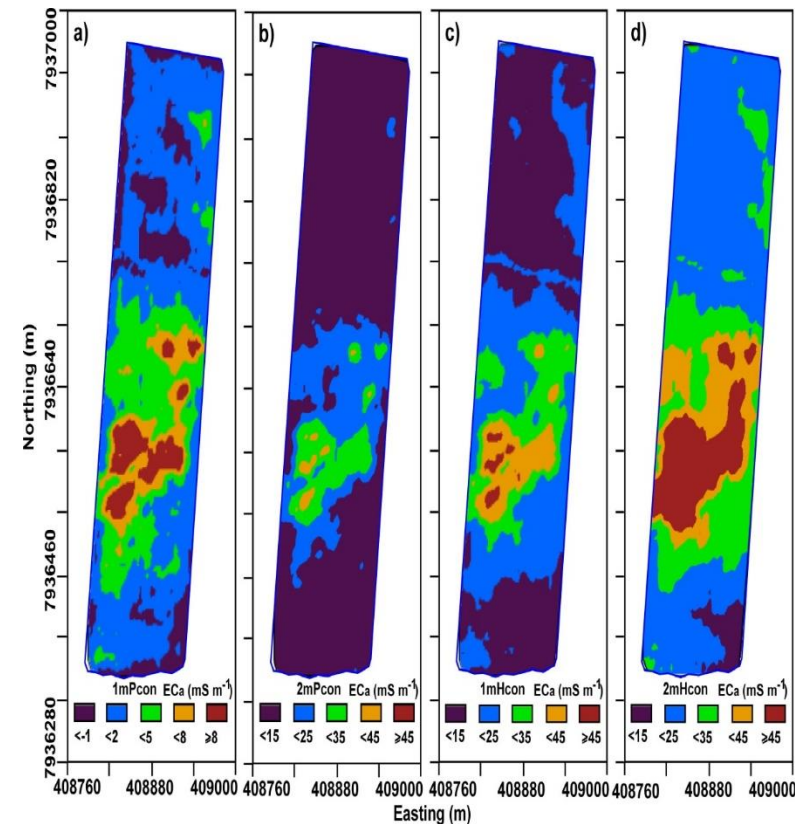
The Leader in Agriculture
Information Management



Dualem

HCPSL has purchased a Dualem to allow for soil mapping in the Herbert.

HCPSL has partnered with UNSW to develop the techniques required.



Data management and analysis

- ▶ SRA funded project- Optimising productivity and variety recommendations through analysis of mill data was completed and outcomes now being implemented.
- ▶ HCPSL is current investigating a new data management system- SST software
 - ▶ HCPSL has employed Rod Nielson (through external funding) for 2 years to lead the project.
 - ▶ HCPSL is current undertaking a pilot project (2 years) to evaluate the systems worth.

HCPSL collects grower data to:

- ▶ Target our extension effort
- ▶ Identify knowledge gaps
- ▶ Validate industry practices
- ▶ Defend the industry position



SST Software

The Leader in Agriculture
Information Management



Investment into youth.

- ▶ Support of the U18 cane section of the Ingham Show.
- ▶ Support of the 2016 Hinchinbrook Careers Day.
- ▶ School visits by staff.
- ▶ Support of a Herbert River Young Farmers Group.
- ▶ Hosted 2 university placement students from UQ and France.



Minimising our environmental footprint

- ▶ HCPSL continues to invest in water quality monitoring from cane lands. This data will assist industry make informed decisions
- ▶ HCPSL is managing projects associated with improvements in water quality going to the Reef
 - ie. Project NEMO, Reef Rescue, Enhanced Efficiency fertiliser research, improved herbicide practices, WTSIP, etc.



Improving NUE



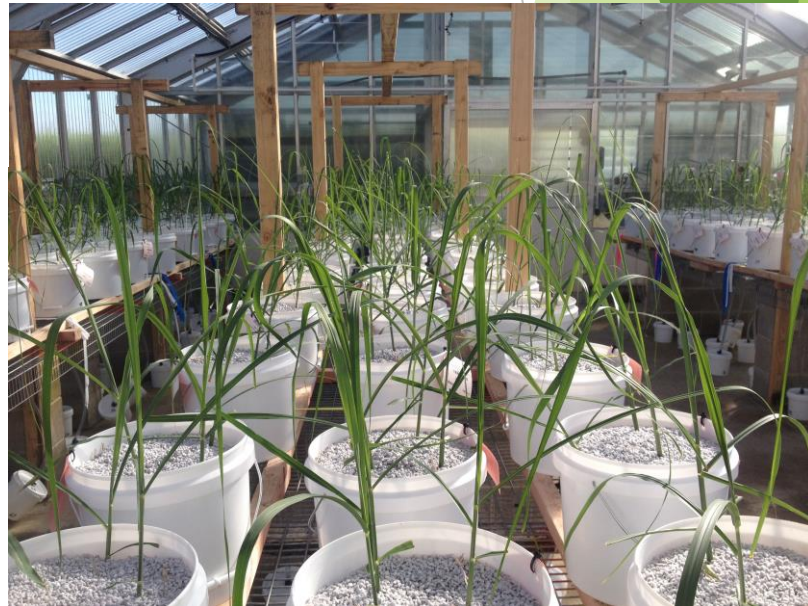
DOW
Agri-sciences



Wet Tropics
Sugar Industry
Partnership



INCITEC PIVOT



Improving NUE- developing and extending knowledge



Activities:

- ▶ Project NEMO- working with growers to improve NUE
- ▶ The Herbert Demo Farm project #2
- ▶ The assessment of nitrogen loss pathways glasshouse experiment- project # 1 & 2
- ▶ Rainfall simulation trial to investigate practices in plant cane
- ▶ ICL EEF trial- Macknade
- ▶ WTSIP nutrient management planning
- ▶ Involvement in the industry nitrogen review
- ▶ SRA/ DSIT Legume management trial
- ▶ UQ companion legume cropping

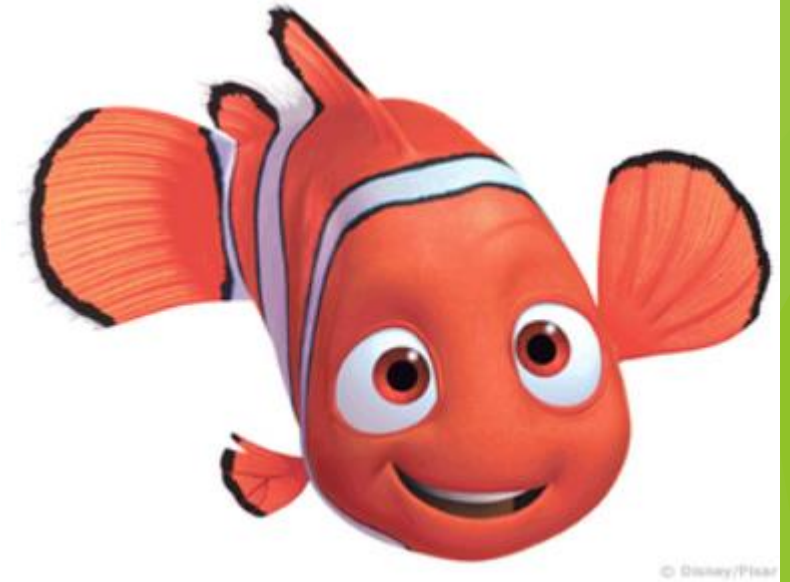


Extension activities- Project NEMO

- ▶ Aim: To improve grower practices in relation to nitrogen use, while achieving water quality outcomes.
- ▶ 3 year project funded by the Queensland Government.
- ▶ Adam Royle (Captain NEMO) leads this project.

Activities:

- ▶ Working with growers through one on one and group processes
- ▶ 12 demonstrations sites have been established to date
- ▶ Rainfall simulation study
- ▶ Water quality monitoring (co-invested with HCPSL funds)
- ▶ Facebook account- informing the farming and wider community



Managing pesticides



- ▶ The Board committed funds to purchase specialized pesticide application equipment (in 2014-15) for:
 - ▶ Conducting research and development
 - ▶ Grower training

Activities undertaken this year:

- ▶ Auschem training (over 200 attended)
- ▶ IWM training under WTSIP program (over 150 attended)
- ▶ Weed management planning under the WTSIP program
- ▶ Conducted 2 trials funded by Arysta to investigate an alternative herbicide to Duiron
- ▶ Grower demos on the Blair leg application system
- ▶ Currently underway a very large variety screening and new product trial funded by Arysta, DOW, and Sumitomo



Welcome to new WTSIP staff to the region



- ▶ Jarrod Sartor- District Extension Officer employed under the WTSIP partnership Reef program (3 year contract)-based at HCPSL.
- ▶ Other WTSIP staff-Caroline Coppo (Extension Coordinator), Don Pollock and Daryl Parker (Regional Extension Officers), Michael Nash (Science and Knowledge- Water Quality), Bruce Corcoran (Science and Knowledge- Practices), Suzette Arget (Innovation) and other district extension officers- hosted at other agencies.

Local WTSIP partners:



Saying good-bye

- ▶ We said good-bye to Heidi Clements (SRA Variety Officer) as she went off to the cotton industry.



Saying thanks-
Special thanks to the
Herbert SRA & Wilmar TFD
teams for your friendship
and support this year.



Retirement

- ▶ Ash Benson retired from HCPSL in July, 2016 after 30+years of service to the industry.
- ▶ Ash will continue on as a casual extension agronomist (as required)- he can't play golf all day.



Conclusion

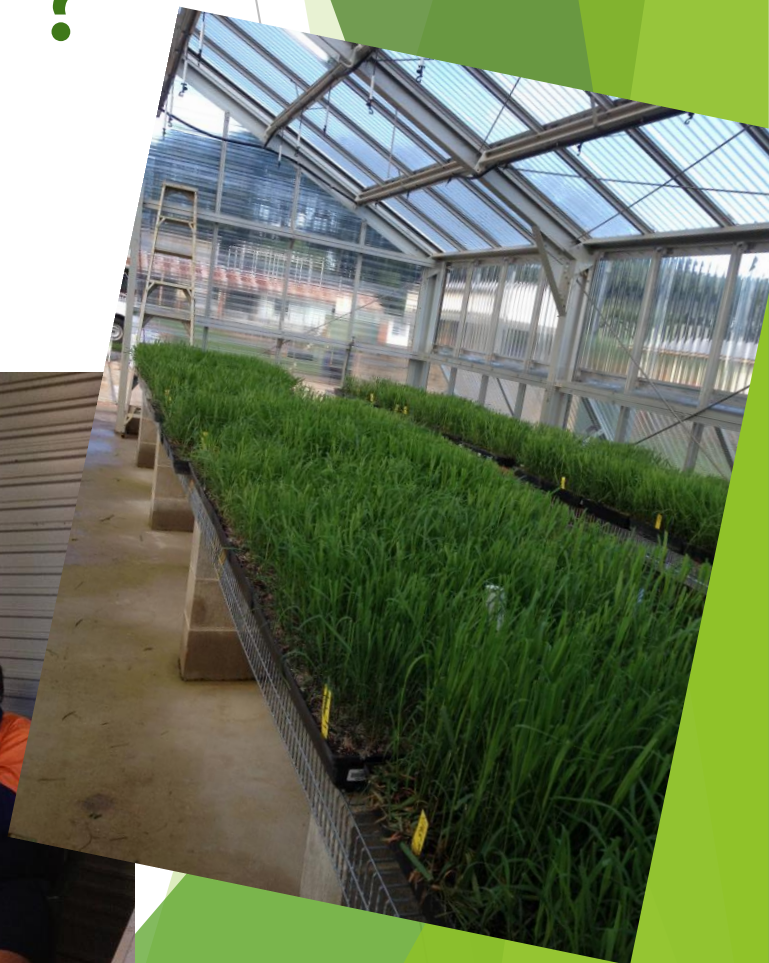
The HCPSL aim is to continue to strive to make things better, through the services it provides for its members.

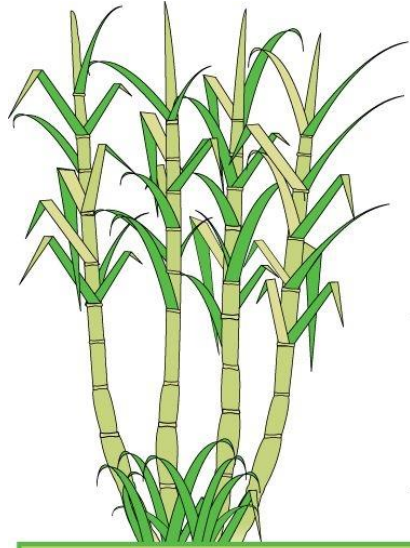
Thanks for your on-going support.



Thank you! Questions ?

Come visit our website-
www.hcpsl.com





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Quest speaker this evening:
Dr. Geoff Garrett (Queensland Chief Scientist)

Topic: “Why we need to save the Reef and how can we work together to save it”.



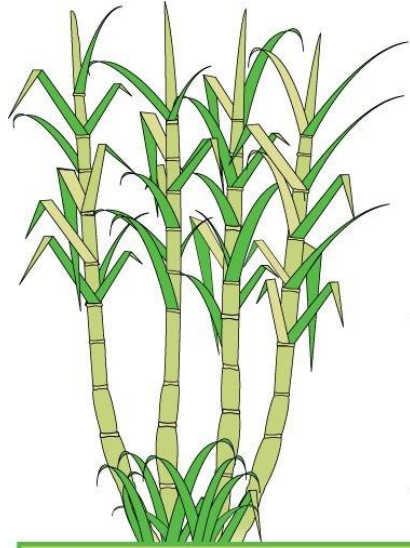
About Dr. Garrett

- ▶ Geoff was appointed Queensland Chief Scientist in January 2011. In this role he is accountable for advising on science policy, and providing strategic guidance across a range of government departments.
- ▶ Over the past 5 years he has also been involved with or led a number of reviews and enquiries covering, inter alia, the science of floods, uranium mining, bat derived horse viruses, underground coal gasification, health and biomedical research and, most recently, water quality improvement in the Great Barrier Reef.
- ▶ A Cambridge graduate in metallurgy and an academic for 13 years, Geoff led two of the world's major national research institutions - CSIR in South Africa (1995-2000) and CSIRO in Australia (2001-2008). A former South African 'Engineer of the Year' (1999), he is a recipient of the Centenary Medal for service to Australian society through science. In June 2008 he was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

About Dr. Garrett

- ▶ A Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Royal Society of South Africa and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Geoff served on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council in Australia for eight years.
- ▶ He is the co-author with Sir Graeme Davies, formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, of the book “Herding Cats - Being advice to aspiring academic and research leaders” (Triarchy Press, UK).

Please welcome Dr. Geoff Garrett.



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Retirement of the Board Chairman- Roy Pace.

- ▶ Roy will stand down as HCPSL Board Chairman in early 2017.
- ▶ Roy's role in the company:
 - ▶ Chairman of Victoria Cane Pest and Disease Control Board in 1989 and continued as Chairman when Victoria amalgamated with Macknade and became Herbert Cane Protection and Productivity Board.
 - ▶ Roy remained chair until 1996 when he gave up the Chair to Ray Quabba.
 - ▶ In 2000, Roy took over as Chairman when Ray Quabba passed away suddenly.
 - ▶ In September 2002, when Statutory Boards were abolished, the company Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd. (HCPSL) was established, with Roy continuing as Chairman until the present time.
 - ▶ In late December 2012- early 2013 Roy was instrumental in transitioning the company to become the Herbert's sugarcane extension provider (after BSES exited) and further developing the companies research and development activities to what it is today.

Roy has spent a total of 23 years as Chairman.

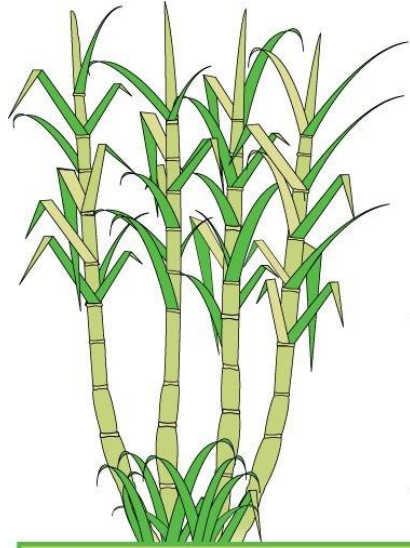


Congratulations-

ROY PACE

**we all appreciate what you have done for
the company, its staff, the Herbert and
Australian sugarcane industry.
JOB WELL DONE!**





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