

Courses on Offer to all Growers:

- ♦ **Six Easy Steps**
- ♦ **Integrated Weed Management**
- ♦ **Auschem (formerly Chemcert)**
- ♦ **Sustainable Farming Systems**

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THE CANE STALK

December 2016

A word from the Manager.

The HCPSL, SRA and Wilmar TFD teams have had a huge year undertaking numerous activities to advance our knowledge, increase productivity and sustainability of our industry.

As you can see from the list in the **Target 85** report we are working many fronts to improve the productivity and sustainability of the cane industry in the Herbert. I would like to thank my Board and staff for the huge effort they have put in this year.

Our office will remain open throughout the Christmas and New Year break to ensure we service your requirements. Some staff will be taking a well-earned break between early December and late January; on their return they will attend to your enquires.

2016 saw the retirement of Ash Benson and saw Heidi Clements from SRA leave the cane industry. We would like to thank both these people for their efforts and dedication over the years.

We would like to introduce and welcome the new HCPSL and SRA Herbert staff working in the region:

- Megan Zahmel who has accepted the HCPSL Field Agronomist position working on Project Catalyst to trial new and innovative practices within the industry.
- Jarrod Sartor who has accepted the HCPSL WTSIP Extension Officer position. Jarrod will be working in the WTSIP program assisting growers to better manage nutrients and pesticides.
- Melanie Adams who has accepted the SRA Variety Officer position, after Heidi's departure.
- Dr. Fengduo Hu who is now the SRA Plant Breeder for the Herbert and Introgression programs.
- Joseph Bonassi who has accepted the SRA Harvesting Engineering position based in the Herbert.
- Andrew Memory who has accepted the SRA YCS technician position, after Megan Zahmel transferred to HCPSL.

Please make all these people welcome to the Herbert cane industry. HCPSL would also like to thank the industry for its continued support in 2016 and look forward to servicing the industry once again in 2017. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lawrence Di Bella, Manager

TARGET 85



Effects of Phytotoxicity on some of the newer release varieties

Report by Richard Hobbs (HCPSL—Extension Agronomist)

Over the past few seasons some of our newer varieties have been showing effects of Phytotoxicity. **Phytotoxicity** is a toxic effect by a compound on plant growth. Such damage may be caused by a wide variety of compounds, including trace metals, salinity, **pesticides**, phytotoxins or allelochemicals. The main concern we have is with pesticide damage mainly by Phenoxo based products. **Phenoxo herbicides** are part of a group of chemicals related to the growth hormone, indoleacetic acid (IAA) and a part of the **Group I** herbicides. Phenoxo herbicides work by mimicking IAA or auxins in broadleaf weeds, producing rapid uncontrolled growth, which eventually kills the plant. These group I herbicides include: 2,4-D, Starane, Actril DS, Tordon 75D and MCPA

Phytotoxicity symptoms can show up in leaves, differences in crop height and plant vigour. Some varieties of cane can display phytotoxicity symptoms in young small cane with no actual stalk showing, through to mature cane fully stalked. These symptoms may vary from variety to variety. What to look for are leaves that look lethargic and droopy. They don't have their usual vigour and erectness. You may find leaves with stripes and or blotches on them.

Sometimes the cane will be a lighter shade of green and/or “crankhandling” may occur and/or droopy bent over tops/stalks. In extreme and rare cases the plant can actually die. This may occur in some varieties that are extremely susceptible to Phenoxo damage.

Varieties like these varieties may experience phytotoxic effects when using Group I herbicides Q138, Q183, Q226, Q240, Q242, SRA3 and SRA5 (unknown)

Spray methods to help minimise Phytotoxicity damage to your crop are:

- Use higher water rates (150 L/ha+).
- Do not spray directly into the heart/ growing point of the plant.
- Spray below the canopy height if possible (not onto green leaves)
- Spray when broadleaf weeds and vines are smaller.
- Avoid high temperatures.
- Consider using MCPA instead of 2,4-D on sensitive varieties. Below is a copy off a MCPA label.

Sample Product Label

Adama
MCPA[®] 750
Herbicide

Sugarcane	Blue Top, Chinese Burr, Flannel Weed, Gambia Pea, Bell Vine, Streaked Rattle Pod, Bindweed, Pink Convolvulus, Cupids Flower, Merremia Vine, Morning Glory	Old only	930 mL	Post-emergent: Apply as a directed inter-row spray. DO NOT exceed rates with phenoxo sensitive varieties.
	As above plus Fat Hen, Noogoora Burr		1.45 L	

Soil testing and laser services:

It is soil testing time again. Growers are urged to get soil tests into the office ASAP, so that we can get your soil test results back to you prior to planting. Soil augers can be collected from the HCPSL office.

Soil tests for nutrients costs- \$125 inclusive of GST

Soil tests for *Pachymetra* costs- \$55 inclusive of GST

Soil test for nematodes costs- \$55 inclusive of GST

Under Reef Regulations and to comply with BMP soil testing is required.

Growers are also urged to come into collect completed laser surveys from the office; especially if you intend to undertake works during the Christmas/ New Year holiday break.

Up and coming events:

Herbert Sustainable Farming Systems Group meeting- 1st of February, 2017.

Herbert River Catchment Landcare Group- **Erosion control workshop** on the 2nd of February, 2017.

Herbert River Catchment Landcare Group- **Revegetation and plant propagation workshop** on the 8th of February, 2017.

Project Catalyst Forum Mackay is to be held between the 26th—28th February 2017

Herbert **Variety Adoption meeting**— April 2017

The Herbert Walk and Talk Day- 20th of April, 2017.

Herbert Grower **Shed meetings**- 3rd & 4th of May, 2017

Herbert **Harvesting Forum**- 10th of May, 2017

More information on these events will be forwarded at a later date.

Dates for the up and coming **Auschem (formerly ChemCert) and RegenAg Workshop Six Easy Steps** courses are yet to be set. Please ring HCPSL- 47761808, to notify your interest for these courses.

Harvester Sugar Loss Research update

HCPSL, SRA and Wilmar have worked together in 2016 to evaluate losses associated with cane harvesting. A You-tube clip has been developed to explain the research undertaken in 2016. You can find on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnADr3p-3j0>

The HCPSL Website

If you have not checked out the HCPSL website lately, please take the time to have a browse. You will find many new features, articles and sections on the site. Go to www.hcpsl.com



Hitting the target- **TARGET 85**

report by Lawrence Di Bella (Manager)



At the 2014 HCPSL AGM, the company launched its **TARGET 85** program. The program aimed at increasing the local industry productivity above a district average of 85 tcph.

Below are some of the achievements achieved for industry this year:

- * Provision of ~1200 tonnes of Approved Seed cane to growers through our plots
- * Provision of 2500 tissue cultured plants to growers
- * Long hot water treated 73 tonnes of cane for growers
- * Provided laser levelling surveys for grower (2000 ha mapped)

Work undertaken with SRA:

- Planting of the Introgression seedling trial at Macknade (~7000 clones)
- Harvesting of 1 Introgression plant cane seedling trial at Macknade (~15,000 clones).
- Harvesting of 3 Introgression variety trials across the district.
- Planting and harvesting of 8 RVT trials.
- Undertook variety recommendations for ~15% of the area planted through QCANE SELECT.
- Released SRA5 to industry.
- ABC Landline story and local extension strategy to better manage CSD.
- Continue research into YCS. A collaborative YCS Farm Management trial was harvested during the year.
- * Provided variety recommendations and a soil testing program (over 200 test received) to assess manage *Pachymetra root rot* levels throughout the district.
- * HCPSL, Wilmar, Norris ECT and SRA undertook harvesting R,D&E into:
 - Harvester speed and pour rate trials to assess the impact on ratoons, due to harvester operational speed.
 - Undertaken assessments of new chopper systems.
 - Billet and cane quality assessment.
 - Measuring of sugar loss associated with harvesting.
 - Data analysis concerning the impact of harvester speed and pour rate.
- * HCPSL continues its investment in 2016 in the basestation network; with a new basestation being installed at Mount Abswold, Bambaroo. HCPSL is always investigating ways to enhance the GPS basestation network for its grower members.
- * HCPSL has purchased a Dualem for soil mapping with Terrain NRM providing half the funds through the Reef Rescue program. The soil mapping unit will commence in early 2017 and it will allow farmers to better manage their soils.
- * HCPSL undertook 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.
- * HCPSL continued to invest in water quality monitoring from cane lands. This data will assist industry make informed decisions into the future.
- * Auschem training (over 200 attended).
- * IWM training under the WTSIP program (over 150 attended).
- * Weed management planning under the WTSIP program.
- * Conducted 2 trials funded by Arysta to investigate an alternative herbicide to Diuron
- * Grower demos on the Blair leg application system.
- * Undertook a very large variety screening and new product trial funded by Arysta, DOW, and Sumitomo to investigate phytotoxic effects on sugarcane.
- * HCPSL continues to manage projects associated with improvements in water quality and increase productivity:
- Project NEMO (State government funded)
 - The WTSIP programs (Federal government funded)
 - Reef Rescue (Federal government funded)
 - Improved herbicide practices (Private company funded)
 - The Herbert Demo Farm project #2 (State government funded)
 - The assessment of nitrogen loss pathways glasshouse experiment- project # 1 & 2 (State and private company funded)
 - Rainfall simulation trial to investigate practices in plant cane (State government funded)
 - ICL funded EEF trial at Macknade
 - Involvement in the industry nitrogen review
 - SRA/ Queensland government funded legume management trial
 - University of Queensland funded companion legume cropping project

The **Target 85** program will run for another 12 months and the activities undertaken will be reviewed by the HCPSL Board and industry at this point in time.

One big goal was achieved in 2016, which was the district average cane yield over 85 tcph was achieved. It is envisaged that a number of new goals will be targeted and hit in 2017.



Photo- Planting introgression seedlings at Macknade farm, July 2016.



Photo of SRA plant breeder- Dr Hu inspect an introgression trial, September 2016

Fallow Management Options

report by Lawrence Di Bella.
Manager, HCPSL

There are many considerations to take into account before deciding what type of fallow to implement. While there has been a big push towards legume fallow, there may be some situations where growers will benefit from a bare fallow.

Bare Fallow

The first point to make is that a bare fallow does not mean bare ground. Cultivating your fallow blocks and leaving them exposed over the wet season can lead to erosion and nutrient losses. These losses will impact the following crop, or at the very least come at a cost to the grower by having to correct the problem at a later date.

The biggest benefit a bare fallow offers is in aiding to control problem weeds before the next sugarcane crop is planted. While this can be done in a cultivated fallow, getting access to apply herbicides throughout the fallow period will be far easier on non-cultivated fallow blocks.

Weed resistance has been reported globally for most chemical groups, so it is very important to rotate herbicide options during the fallow period. Also bio-accumulation of Glyphosate has been reported in NSW where frequent use of this product has occurred over a fallow period and the impact is not fully understood.

It is recommended that growers rotate herbicide classes to avoid the selection of particular weed species like Green Summer Grass and Crowsfoot grass, which pose problems in the plant and subsequent ratoon crops. A herbicide program option to consider is as follows:

- Early in the fallow period-Verdict (Group A) use soon after ploughing out of cane to kill volunteer cane that have emerged.
- Mid in the fallow period- Glyphosate (Group M) and Starane (Group I) to manage hard to kill weeds and volunteer cane.
- Late in the fallow period (if required)- Sprayseed (Group L) and 2,4-D (Group I) to manage both grasses and broadleaves, prior to planting in a well-managed fallow.

Herbicide options may vary depending on weed pressure and weed types present. Please contact your local HCPSL Extension Agronomist for further advice.

Sometimes however it is necessary to cultivate a block through the fallow period, to correct drainage issues for example. In this case it might be worth looking at establishing a legume fallow after the drainage issue has been corrected.

Growers have the following rotational crop options:

- Legume options: cowpea, mungbeans, lablab, soybean, and sunn hemp.
- Other crop options: rice, forage sorghum, Japanese millet, sunflower.

Growers can plant these rotational crops as a single species or a mixed species fallow crop. Mixed species fallow crops have gained interest in the past 5 years because farmers are

seeking opportunities to improve the soil health, introduce soil biodiversity and to manage crop risk failure.

There is very limited research data on the effect of mixed species fallow cropping, however trials are proposed for the next few years to quantify the effects of each species of plant.

Options to consider for a mixed species fallow crop are as follows:

- Sunflower, soybean, cowpeas and Sunn hemp (plant a 25-50kg/ha)
- Sunflower, cowpea, lablab (suited to dry soil conditions. Plant at 20-30kg/ha)
- Cowpea and lablab (suited to dry soil conditions. Plant at 20-30kg/ha)
- Soybean, cowpea and Sunn hemp (plant at 25-50kg/ha)
- Soybean, Japanese millet, cowpeas (plant at 25-50kg/ha)

(Rates will vary depending on seed quality, seed size and fraction of each species within a mix).

Legume Fallows

Legumes have become a big part of our sugarcane fallow management system and they offer many benefits. Legumes can offer ground cover, weed suppression, nutrient benefits and can even suppress some pests and diseases such as nematodes. However, a poorly established and maintained legume crops can lead to weed outbreaks or other issues that may affect the productivity of future sugarcane crops.

The keys to establishing a good legume fallow are:

1. ***Plant your legumes into mounds*** - Planting your legumes into existing or newly formed mounds greatly improves their chances of survival by limiting the time they will be exposed to waterlogging and flooding.
2. ***Apply your ameliorant before you plant your legumes*** – Soil low in pH can cause poor establishment in some legumes, particularly soybeans. By applying lime, or calcium/magnesium blends or mill mud, your legume fallow crop will benefit from the rise in soil pH. Applying your ameliorant at this time will also allow enough time for the calcium to become available for your following sugarcane crop.
3. ***Use inoculums when planting a legume.*** Inoculums contain a natural bacteria called rhizobium, which allows the plant to fix atmospheric nitrogen into its root system. Do not plant legumes without an inoculum.

<i>Legume species</i>	<i>Inoculum type</i>
<i>Cowpea</i>	I
<i>Lablab</i>	J
<i>Soybean</i>	H
<i>Sunn Hemp</i>	M
<i>Mungbean</i>	I



4. **Manage your weeds** – Before you even think of establishing a legume fallow crop you should think about a weed management strategy that will keep the block free from weeds and volunteer cane, throughout the fallow period. There is no point having a great crop of legumes if the price you pay is having to spend a fortune on weed control in your next sugarcane crop.

The following table shows several herbicide options for controlling weeds in legumes fallows in three critical periods; pre-plant, pre-emergence and post-emergence. You should always consult the label and seek advice before applying any herbicide.

Pre-planting (up to 2 days before planting)	Pre-crop emergence (immediately after planting)	Post- crop emergence (consult label recommendations for best spray periods)
This is often the best time to control weeds in a legume fallow. Your choice of herbicides are broader and less expensive.	This is also a good time to control weeds but timing is very important. Herbicide options start to become a limited.	Options for weed control are limited and can be expensive, especially for broadleaf. Avoid relying on this period as your primary time to control weeds in a legume fallow.
<i>Knockdown - Small Grasses and Broadleaf weeds</i>		
Sprayseed – 2L/ha	Gramoxone – 1.5L/ha (limited broadleaf control)	Verdict 520 – 150mL/ha Blazer - 1L/ha
<i>Knockdown – Established Grasses and Broadleaf weeds</i>		
Glyphosate – “see label for rate”	Verdict 520 – 150ml/ha Blazer - 1L/ha	Verdict 520 – 150ml/ha Blazer - 1L/ha
<i>Residual – Grasses and Broadleaf weeds</i>		
“Not recommended”	Stomp Xtra – 2.2L/ha Sencor (Metribuzin) – 750mL/ha	Stomp Xtra – 2.2L/ha Spinnaker 700 WDG– 140g/ha
<i>Residual – Grasses, Broadleaf and Nutgrass</i>		
“Not Recommended”	Stomp Xtra – 2.2L/ha Spinnaker 700 WDG– 140g/ha	Stomp Xtra – 2.2L/ha Spinnaker 700 WDG– 140g/ha

Note: Always add a good adjuvant to your herbicide mixture as per label instructions

For further information of fallow management options please contact a HCPSL Extension or Field Agronomist.

Fertiliser Conversion Calculation

Soil Requirements			
N	P	K	S
140	10	100	10

Fertiliser Analysis	
Product Label CK 140 S	
N: 23.2% P: 2.0% K: 17.5% S: 3.8%	

$$\text{RATE (KG/HA)} = \frac{\text{Required Nutrients (N from soil test)}}{\text{Product Nutrients \%}} \times 100$$

$$\text{eg. } \frac{140}{23.2} \times 100 = 603 \text{ kg/ha}$$

$$\text{Bags/acre} = \text{kg/ha} \div 124$$

$$\frac{603}{124} = 4.9 \text{ bags/acre}$$

÷124



Sunn Hemp- a legume for fallow cropping

-article by Lawrence Di Bella.

I first saw Sunn Hemp planted in rotation with sugarcane in Brazil in 2007 and I was impressed. The world over Sunn Hemp has been used as a legume rotation green manure crop in many cropping systems.

Sunn Hemp is known to have a bio-fumigant effect on soil following its planting. It is believed that root exudates a fumigate into the soil, reducing populations of nematodes (especially root knot nematodes) and have other beneficial effects. Its large tap root is used to penetrate compacted soils, allowing soil aeration and soil conditioning. Yield increases have been reported overseas in other crops following the planting of Sunn Hemp.

Sunn Hemp is easily planted, broadcast or through a precision planter (which is the preferred planting method). The crop should be planted at 20-30kg/ha when broadcast and 20-25kg/ha through a precision planter. Seed must be inoculated with a Group M rhizobium at planting. The crop prefers soils with a pH of over 5.5, so liming of blocks to increase soil pH and addressing of calcium deficiencies are essential for good crop growth and establishment.

I was impressed by the crops rapid germination and establishment, especially in drier soil conditions (than those required by soybean at planting in Brazil). Seeding rates for Sunn Hemp in Australia may need to be increased this year because seed viability is approximately 60% for seed being sold. The reason for the low seed viability this year is that the seed being made available to Queensland has been treated as a requirement of Bio-security Australia to ensure the seed is free of any potential other weed seeds on entry to Australia.

The Photo 1 is of a crop of Sunn Hemp 30 days after planting, Ribeiro Preto, Brazil, 2007. Photo 2 is a 50 day old crop I recently inspected at Freshwater outside, Cairns in November, 2016.

Sunn Hemp is in limited supply this year through some local resellers, but it is worth a try.

For a factsheet on Sunn Hemp, please go to the factsheet section on the HCPSL website- www.hcpsl.com.au

For local advice please contact a HCPSL Extension or Field Agronomist.



Photo 1. Sunn Hemp in Brazil



Photo 2. Sunn Hemp at Freshwater, near Cairns.

New faces at Herbert Cane Productivity Services



Field Agronomist (Project Catalyst)

I'm Megan Zahmel, I have been living in Ingham for nearly seven years. Previously I was working for Sugar Research Australia. While working for SRA I worked on the Nitrogen Use Efficiency trials here in the Herbert region and in the Tully district. I have also worked on the Yellow Canopy Syndrome trials. I have been working with HCPSL now for nearly a month and the projects I will be working on are the Catalyst farmer trials around the district. I will be working directly with 14 innovative farmers to trial and validate their farm management practices.



Project Catalyst Partners



Extension Officer (WTSIP Program)

Hi I'm Jarrod Sartor, growing up here on the family farm in Victoria Estate I have been involved in the cane industry from a young age. After I finished high school in 2011 I enrolled in James Cook University studying a Bachelor of Geology learning about mineralogy, landform and digital mapping technology, bedrock/soil relationship, and hydrology. I graduated in 2015 and began work with Sugar Research Australia based in Mackay working on adoption and extension efforts in Sarina and Proserpine areas. I worked with SRA for 18 months before being employed in now my current role as WTSIP extension officer for HCPSL. In this role, I strive to achieve water quality improvements through extension of improved farming systems.



Wet Tropics
Sugar Industry
Partnership



“What does it mean to the Cane Industry”

Why change Queensland’s biosecurity laws?

Biosecurity is the protection of the economy, the environment and the community from animal and plant pests, diseases and contaminants. It is critical to market access and the profitability and sustainability of our industries. It also safeguards Queensland’s natural assets, our health and our way of life.

The biosecurity Act (the Act) was enacted in early 2016. The Act allows a consistent modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to biosecurity in Queensland.

All Queenslanders need to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under their control. Under the Act, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk will have greater legal responsibility for managing them. The general biosecurity obligation means that all must take reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant.

Queenslanders will need to report unusual events that might be related to biosecurity. Biosecurity zones will be introduced by Regulation and used to manage, reduce or eradicate pests or disease (such as Fiji disease in sugarcane).

What is your general biosecurity obligation?

You will need to:

- Take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- Minimise the likelihood of the risk causing a biosecurity event and limit the consequences of such an event
- Prevent or minimise the adverse effects the biosecurity risk could have and refrain from doing anything that might exacerbate the adverse effects.

A biosecurity risk exists when you deal with any pest, disease or contaminant, or with something that could carry one of these. This includes moving or keeping a pest, disease contaminant or animals, plants, soil and equipment that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant.

Do you need to know about all biosecurity risks?

No. However, you will be expected to know about the risks associated with your day-to-day work and your hobbies

What will happen if someone does not meet their obligation?

Biosecurity Queensland will focus on educating Queenslanders about biosecurity and will encourage voluntary compliance with biosecurity obligations. However, if required, specific action could be taken to ensure an individual, business or other organisation improves how they manage biosecurity risks. To achieve this, Biosecurity Queensland would generally provide specific advice on how risks can be managed. An officer could also issue a biosecurity order requiring specific action to be taken within a reasonable time.

Not complying with the general biosecurity obligation is an offence. Biosecurity Queensland may also consider prosecution.

What does it mean to the cane industry?

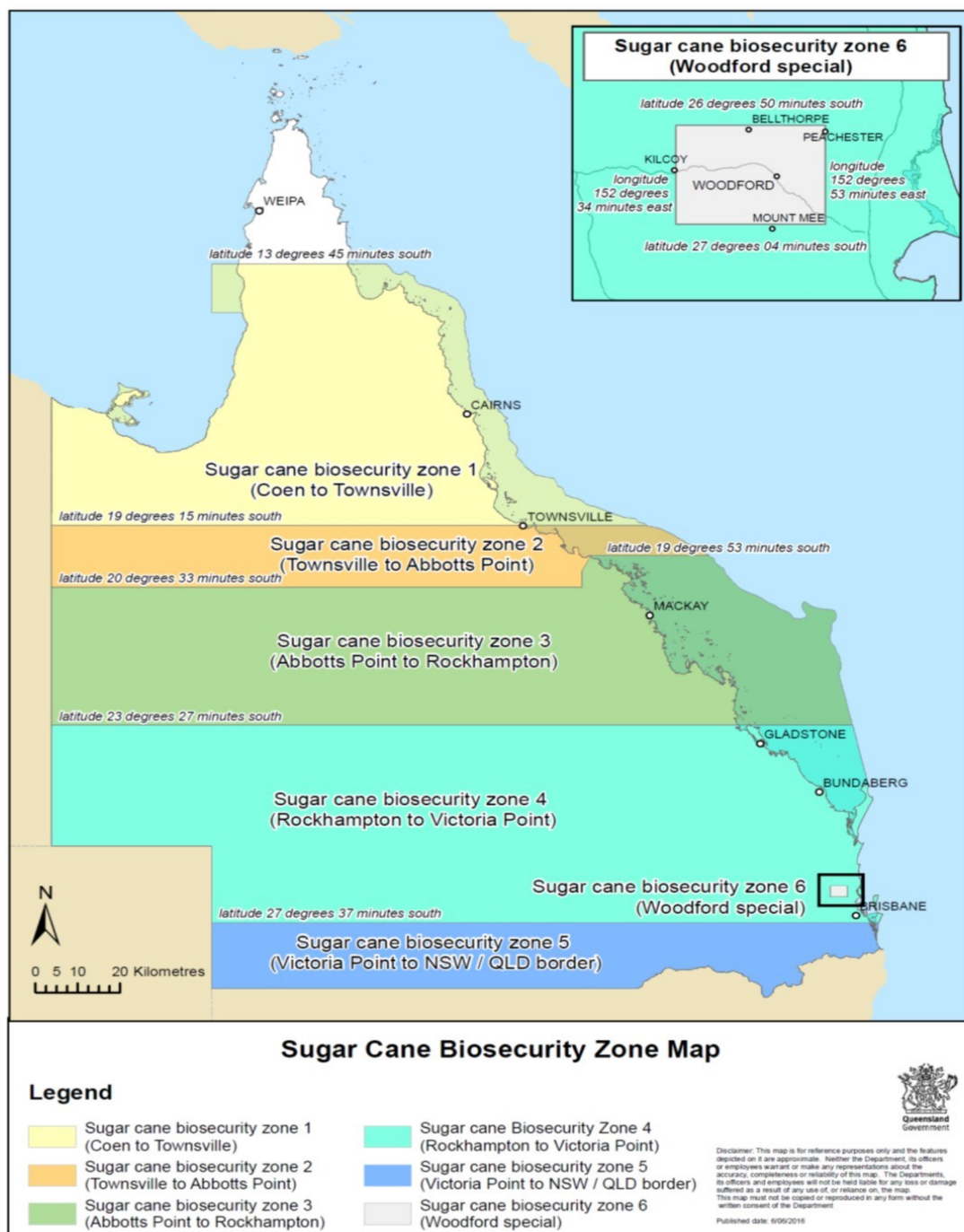
Biosecurity zones are in place throughout the State to prevent the movement of sugarcane diseases.

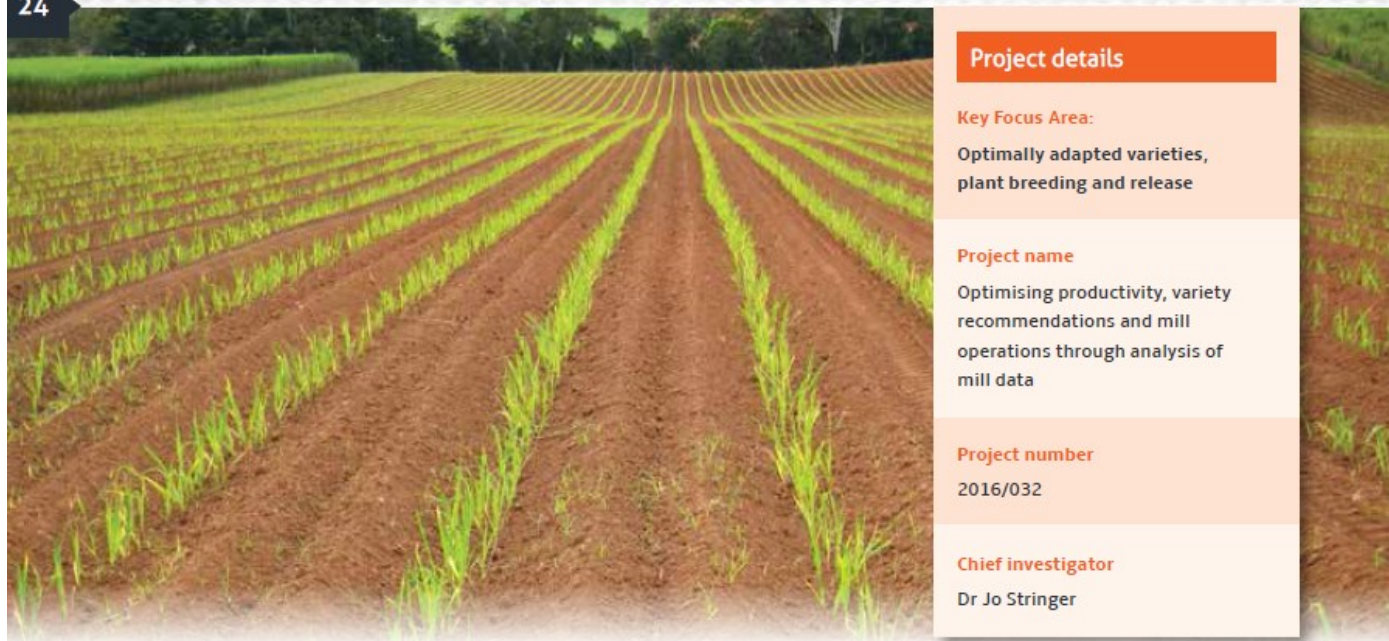
Growers cannot move cane between biosecurity zones.

Machinery must be clean & approved for movement across biosecurity zones. A permit can be obtained from HCPSL

More information

To find out more about the Act, visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au or call 13 25 23





Project details

Key Focus Area:

Optimally adapted varieties,
plant breeding and release

Project name

Optimising productivity, variety
recommendations and mill
operations through analysis of
mill data

Project number

2016/032

Chief investigator

Dr Jo Stringer

RESEARCH

Collaborative use of mill data creates path for productivity improvement

SRA has worked collaboratively with Wilmar and HCSPL in the Herbert region to analyse mill data to drive productivity improvements.

Research that has analysed mill data to help improve productivity in the Herbert region is being extended across the Australian sugarcane industry.

Over the last two years, the Herbert research project has looked at a range of characteristics of both high-yielding farms and low yielding farms in the Herbert, as well as comparing the differences.

It has analysed farms according to factors such as overall production (tonnes) in terms of small, medium and large business, with the aim of identifying steps that growers can take to boost their productivity.

This has been with the objective of answering the question – what are the farm practices occurring on high yielding farms compared to low yielding farms?

SRA Leader for Data Analysis, Dr Jo Stringer, said the project looked at vast volumes of data on the Herbert industry, with all individual information being confidential and only available to that grower or harvesting contractor.

The work occurred in collaboration with Wilmar and Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL).

“We know that there are small farm size high-producing growers, and there are also small farm size low-producing growers. Our project looked at what practices are the high producers implementing to make them high producing,” Jo said.

“Is it their *Pachymetra* level and use of clean seed? Is it their soil type? Is it the timing of their farming practices?”

Industry in the Herbert has initiated a program called Target 85, a program targeting an average district yield of 85 TCH.

It appears that the region is likely to meet that yield target in 2016, and this project has identified a number of practices that could help the region continue to meet that target even when seasonal conditions are less favourable, via long-term extension programs.

Jo said the project identified common practices across top performing farms.

“We know soil and climate play an important role, but there was a number of practices that were common across the high yielding farms,” she said.

"A major finding was that growers who have adopted the modern farming system had significantly higher productivity than those who used traditional practices.

"The impact of Pochymetra was also apparent, suggesting incorrect variety selection may also be a factor contributing to poor ratooning."

She also said the project identified the value of clean seed in the region, which had translated into a huge demand from hot-water treated cane from HCPSL since the project began.

"Growers who regularly obtained clean seed had 10 percent or greater yields than growers who never or infrequently obtained clean seed."

According to Manager of HCPSL, Lawrence Di Bella, many more growers now undertake Pochymetra screening and want to source Pochymetra resistant varieties from HCPSL approved clean seed plots.

Over the last two years, HCPSL has distributed between 800-1200 tonne of cane as whole stalks and billets out of clean seed plots, compared to 200t previously.

There have been group extension and one-on-one extension activities as a result of this project, as a collaboration between SRA, HCPSL, and Wilmar. This extension activity has been targeted to the different groups of growers.

The project also collaborated with Norris ECT to identify the impact of harvesting practices in relation to productivity.

The work by both NorrisECT, SRA engineering, Wilmar and many other milling companies has demonstrated significant improvements in crop recovery and quality associated with reduced harvesting speeds.

The research is now being extended across the industry, working in collaboration with millers and productivity services companies.

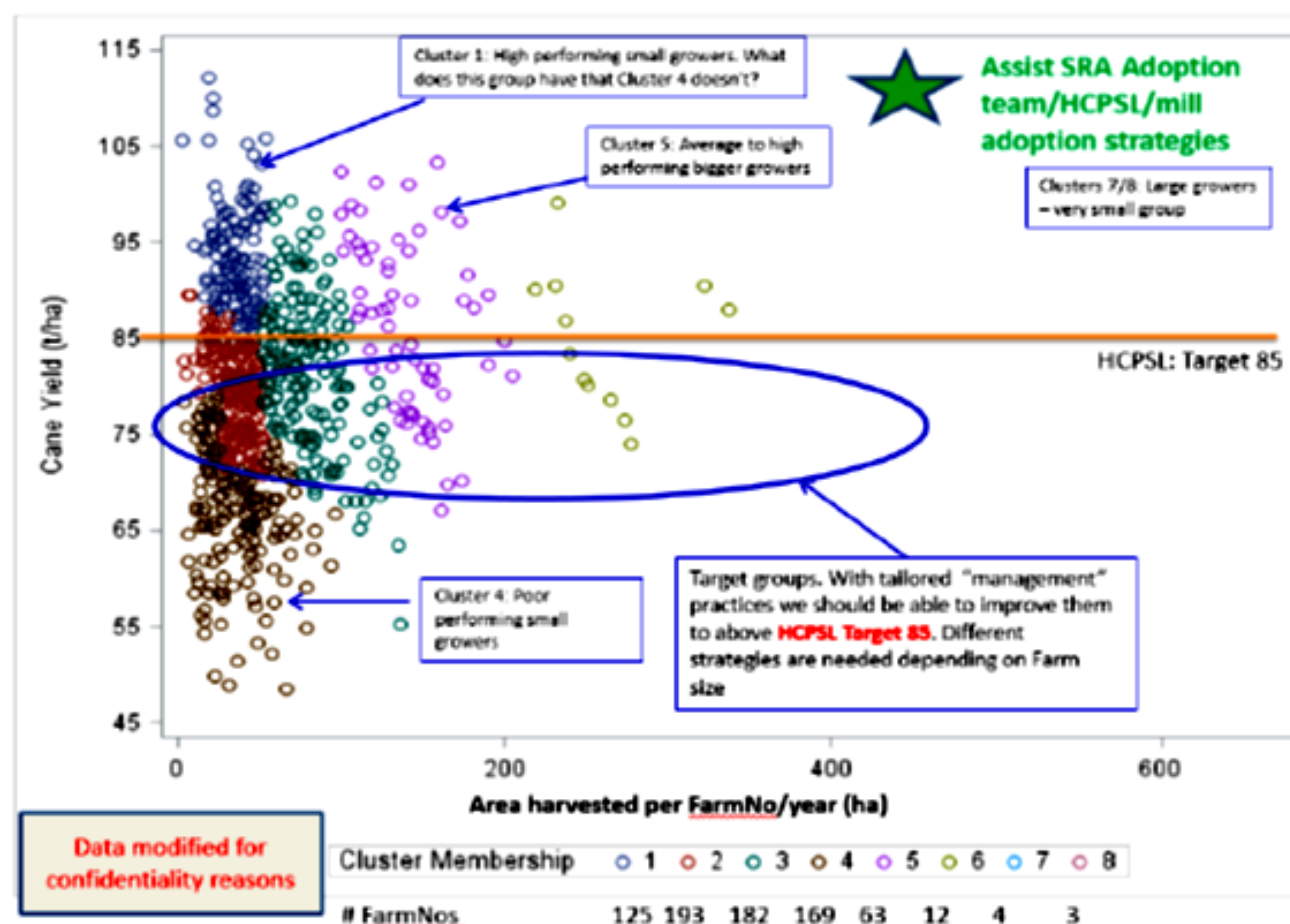
More information

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Below: Performance of 8 clusters over time: TCH.



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Extension Officer (WTSIP)

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Hot Water Treatment Tanks

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