

RP210 – Tailored nutrient and farm management solutions for the Herbert catchment area (Herbert RP161)

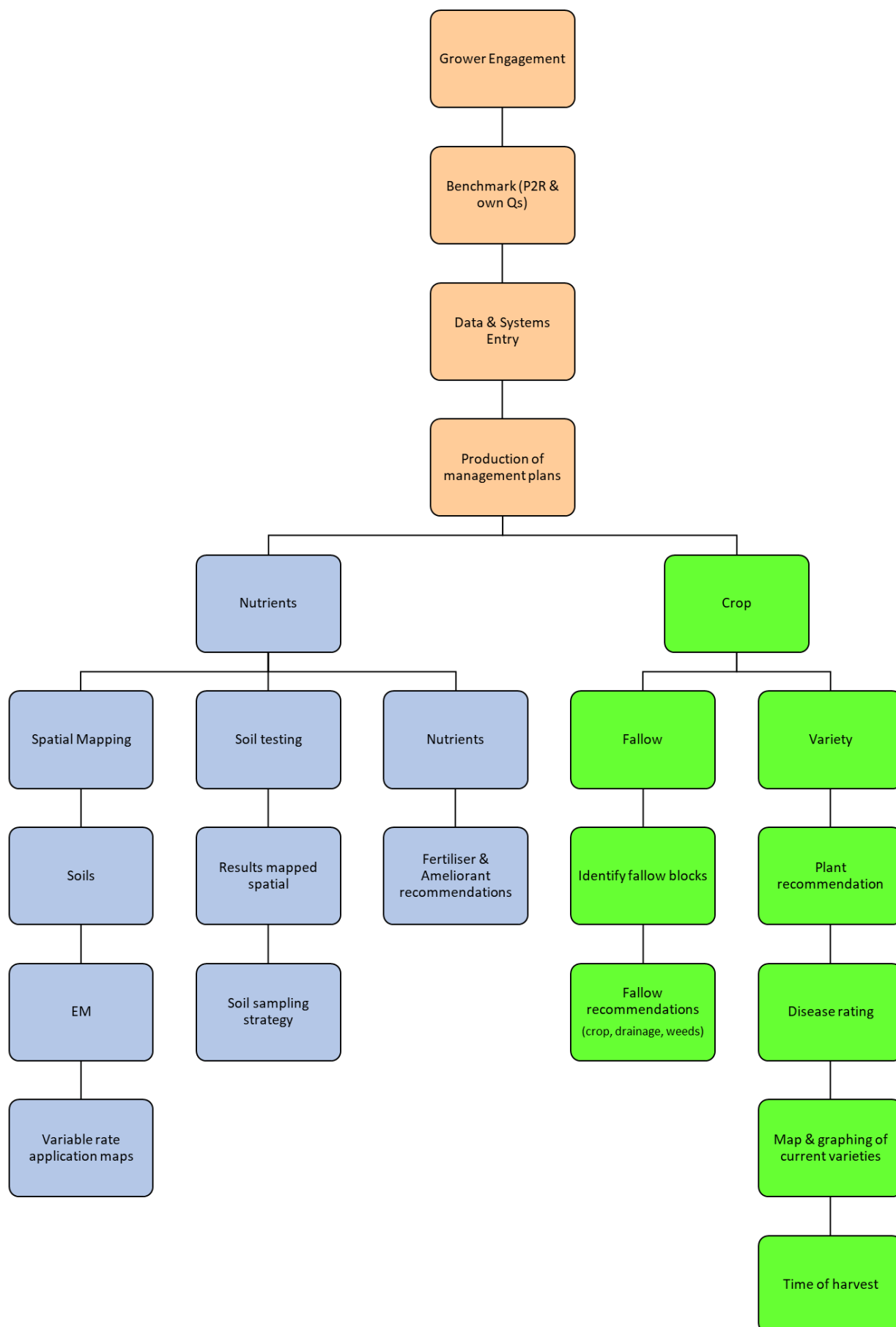
Milestone Report #2

Milestones	Outputs and other deliverables that make up this milestone	Milestone Key Performance Indicators See Supporting Information Part G	Submission date for outputs and deliverables	OGBR review of milestone (date)
Milestone 2 Establish the project team (HCPSL, Farmacist, Tanglewood Agricultural Services) Hold first meeting to coordinate effort, provide necessary training (ie. GSM & GIS training), and discuss and develop further the grower engagement strategy. Deliver MERI and communication plans with DES endorsement	Meeting Grower engagement strategy	Project team established First meeting held Grower engagement strategy finalised MERI and communication plans finalised	15 April	30 April 2019

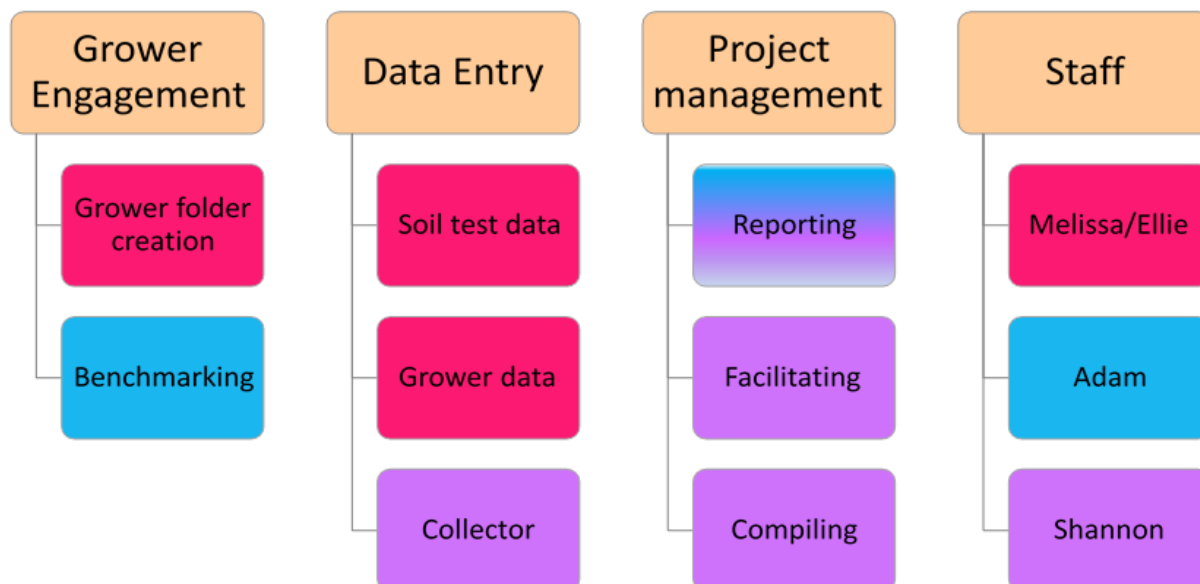
Establish the project team (HCPSL, Farmacist, Tanglewood Agricultural Services)

- HCPSL has met with Farmacist on two occasions and communicated with staff and management frequently regarding partnership arrangements. A contract is currently being formalised for completion prior to the next report.
- HCPSL has engaged the services of Dr Andrew Wood from Tanglewood Agricultural Services, who has agreed to provide support in co-delivering soil health workshops “Farming 4 CASH™”. A formal contract is due for completion before the next milestone report.
- HCPSL staff have met informally and formally on a weekly basis since March 2019 to develop a Project Action Plan and discuss delivery pathways, staffing allocations and resourcing to meet milestones and ensure delivery of the project Nutrient & Crop Plan (refer to Herbert RP161 Project Action Plan below).
- A formal team meeting with project staff and HCPSL manager was held on 27th May to evaluate progress.

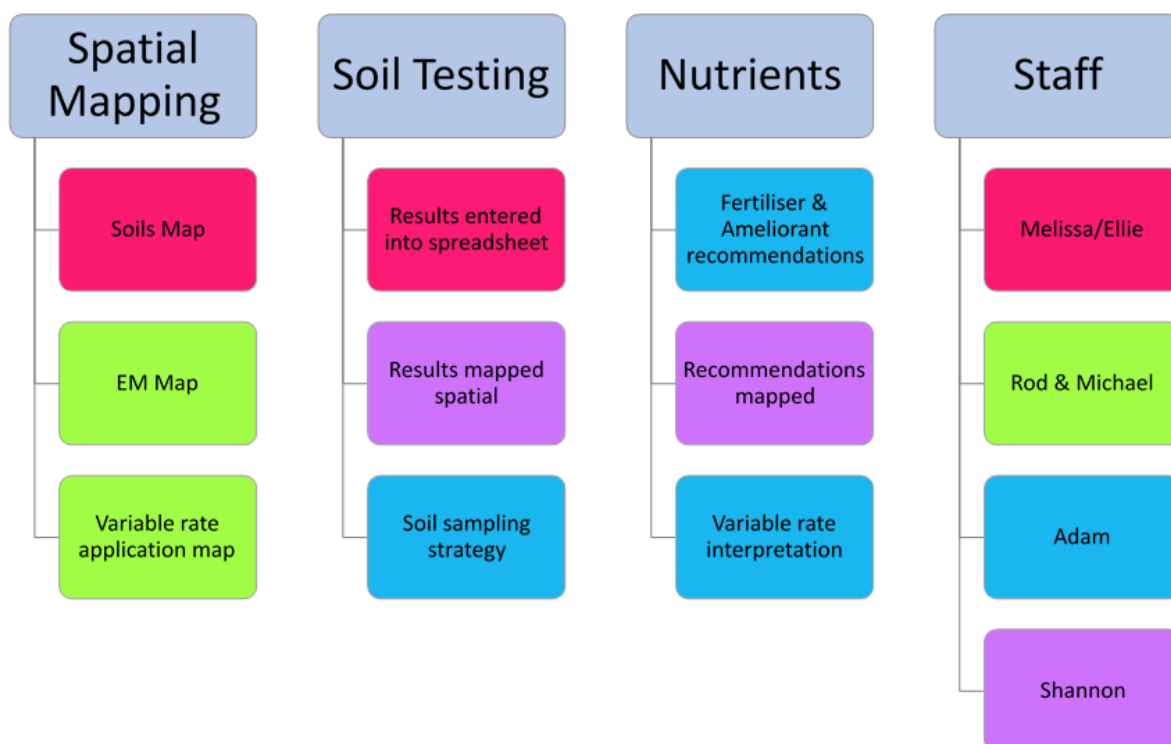
Herbert RP161 Project Action Plan



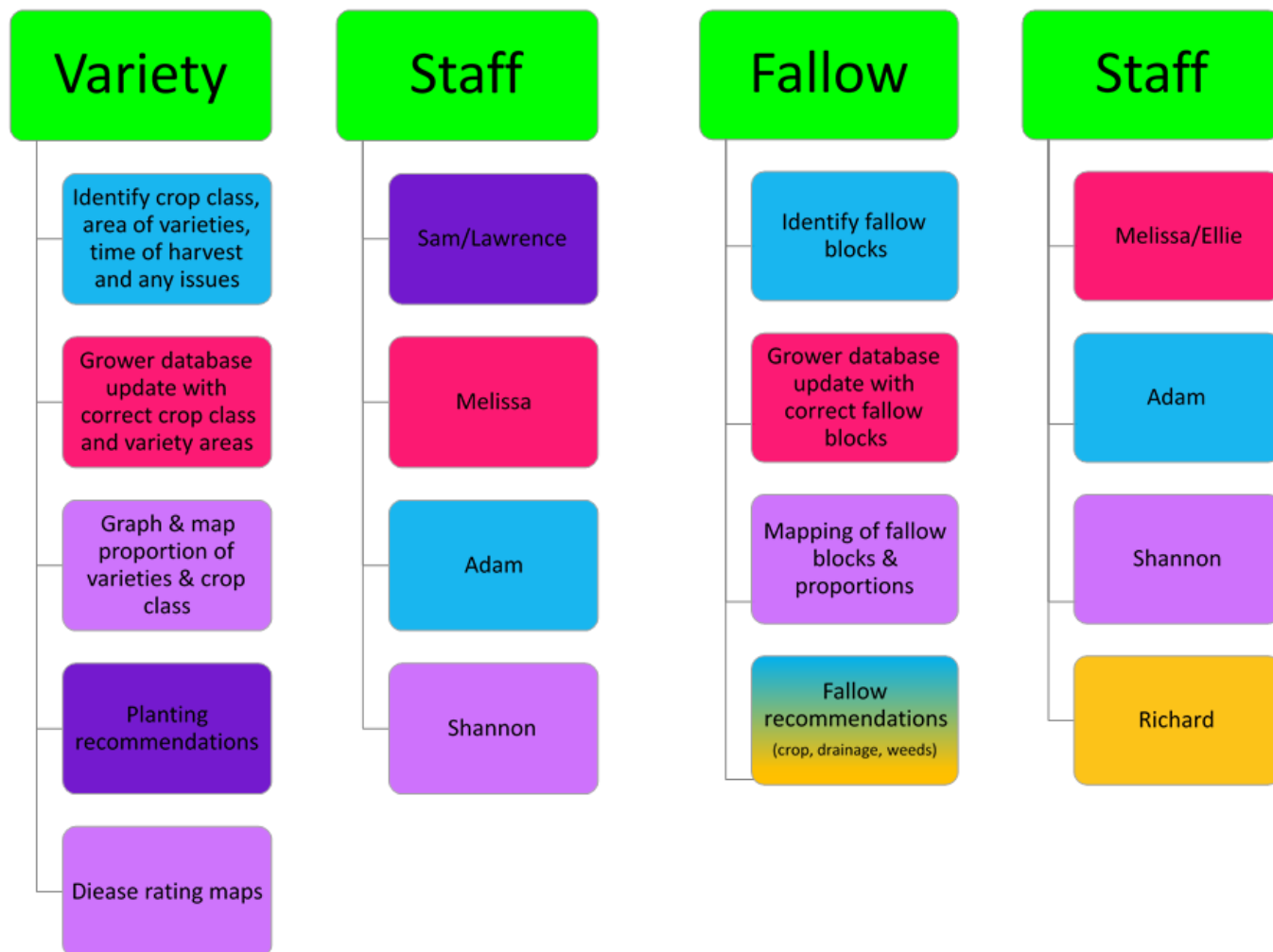
Data Management Action Plan



Nutrient Management Action Plan



Crop Management Action Plan



Hold first meeting to coordinate effort, provide necessary training (ie. GSM & GIS training), and discuss and develop further the grower engagement strategy.

- Representatives from HCPSL, Farmacist, DES and WTSIP met on 4th March 2019 to discuss project requirements, outcomes and prior experiences through RP161 (Burdekin)
- Representatives from HCPSL, Farmacist (Burdekin & Mackay) and DES met again on 16th April to discuss progress and further services/training requirements
- HCPSL & Farmacist discussed partnership arrangement and how Farmacist could assist HCPSL in delivering project outcomes on a spatial level. The outcomes of this meeting, along with outcomes from discussions with DES staff, will form the basis for a formal contract between HCPSL that is to be completed prior to next milestone report

Deliver MERI and communication plans with DES endorsement

- MERI and Comms plans were discussed with DES representatives at the group meeting on the 16th of April and both parties agreed to work together to finalise plans.
- MERI and Comms plans were finalised on Friday 24th May 2019.

General Updates & Learnings

Grower Engagement

- 4 grower meetings were held in the Herbert (26-27th March) where HCPSL project staff (Adam Royle & Shannon O'Brien) were joined by Burdekin grower advocate David Defranciscis (*see photo gallery*).
- 146 growers attended the meetings, which included an interactive discussion regarding Herbert RP161 and the distribution of project fliers to all grower attendees.
- HCPSL project staff, in partnership with WTSIP staff, held a series of soil health workshops in which Herbert RP161 was also discussed and grower participants recruited (*see photo gallery*)
- Some of the content delivered at these workshops will also be delivered by HCSPL project staff during the Farming 4 CASH™ workshops.

Grower Participation & Benchmarking

- Due to the short timeframe to engage with and develop nutrient and crop plans for year 1 growers, benchmarking of growers commenced on Friday 29th March.
- Herbert RP161 staff have completed the primary benchmarking for 53 year 1 farms.
- Nutrient and crop plans have been started for approximately half of these growers with one full plan completed.
- A further 65 new farms have expressed interest in participating under the year 2 grower intake.
- This level of participation is comforting considering WTSIP have, and still are, delivering nutrient plans in the Herbert for the past 3 years
- It also presents a challenge to the project if all 65 still want to progress upon commencement of year 2 engagement and benchmarking

General Learnings & Observations

- During initial benchmarking HCPSL project staff have found the majority (if not all) growers responded extremely positively to discussions revolving around how they may be able to improve their management practises to improve productivity and profitability.
- Although most growers preferred not to discuss the topic of "water quality", they were in fact keen to consider any practise change that may improve environmental outcomes.
- Some spatial deliverables associated with nutrient and crop plans have been able to be achieved in-house, which project staff are confident will save time and resources in delivering plans.
- Social questions added to the benchmarking process (post partners meeting on April 16th 2019) have been well received by growers with all involved agreeing to participate.

Herbert RP161 Farm Distribution Map for Year 1 Growers

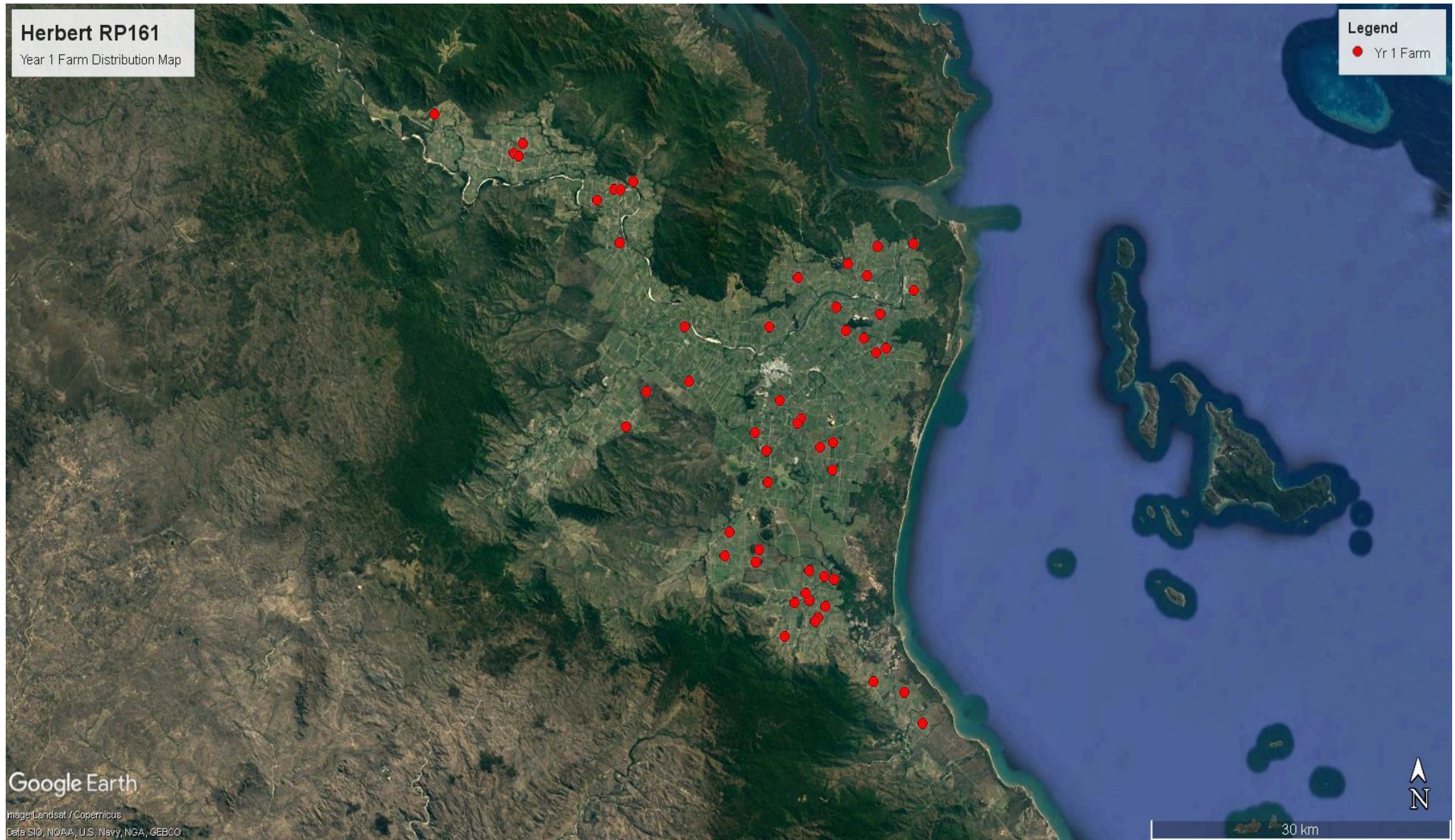


Photo Gallery

HCPSL Grower Shed Meetings (26th – 27th March 2019)



Herbert RP161 project staff Adam Royle and Shannon O'Brien, and Burdekin grower advocate David Defranciscis, address growers at a series of Herbert grower shed meetings to promote Herbert RP161 and seek grower engagement.

The shed meetings, conducted across the five major sub-districts, were held in March 2019 and attracted 146 growers; plus industry representatives from the extension, research and agribusiness.

