



SRA enewsletter 22nd February 2019

CaneClip: Harvest optimisation – Deguara family

In this CaneClip, Phil Deguara talks about participation in in-field harvest optimisation trials with SRA in recent seasons, including changes to operating parameters and improvements to their harvester. Through their work on reducing harvest losses, 2018 trial results indicated that the Deguaras minimised sugar loss to about 280kg per hectare, with about 7.7 tonnes of trash per hectare (PRS of 14.8 percent). Billet quality was good. The trial indicated they had 74 percent sound billets, 17 percent damaged, and 9 percent mutilated. You can also read more in the coming issue of CaneConnection magazine, which comes out next month.

<https://sugarresearch.com.au/caneclip/3603/>

Soil health partnership workshop

Growers, millers, service providers and researchers came together in Townsville this week to discuss all things sugarcane soil health. This gathering was organised as part of the SRA Soil Health Program, which is a 10-year commitment by SRA to work with the industry on building our knowledge around the links between soil health, the farming system, and profitability, and translating this into practical outcomes for growers.

The workshop identified new/emerging research needs, gaps and priorities for the industry, especially our growers. It continued to establish a strong platform for collaboration on future soil health communications, understanding, knowledge, skill development and adoption barrier initiatives.

In the development of the SRA Strategic Plan, soil health was repeatedly identified as a high priority regional and industry issue that SRA needs to address.

Building better engagement and collaboration across extension providers in the Great Barrier Reef

‘You can communicate without engagement, but you can’t engage without communication.’

This was one of the key points made in a two-day workshop held last month in Townsville as part of the Enhanced Extension Coordination project being rolled out in the Great Barrier Reef catchments. Seventeen participants attended the workshop including seven Enhanced Extension Coordination project regional coordinators and key collaborators from Sugar Research Australia and the Queensland Government and shared their perspectives on the process of building engagement and collaboration.

With a great deal of experience in the room, it was clear to all that gaining collaboration isn’t something that just happens overnight. Collaboration requires a shared goal, or looking at an issue

together, and then co-creating a solution, which involves shared responsibility, risks and benefits. It means creating something that wasn't there before

Participants identified that there is no easy way to short-cut the process and it's all about building relationships and trust.

Terri Buono, Regional Extension Coordinator from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Anthony Curro (Regional Coordinator for SRA's Industry Adoption Strategy) jointly presented on working together to improve coordination in sugarcane extension in the Burdekin, through the Burdekin Cane Extension Group (BCEG).

"It's clear that there is a great deal of enthusiasm and support for this process and the project and there's already some great work taking place in the regions," Ms Buono said.

"This is a space worth watching over the next 18 months of the project's delivery."

For more information about the project, please contact Dr Niall Connolly, Manager (Reef Extension Coordination), 3330 4517 or email niall.connolly@daf.qld.gov.au

Events

Grower research updates

We invite investors and stakeholders to join SRA researchers, technicians and adoption team staff to share the latest research developments.

You will have the opportunity to speak directly with the people conducting the research, as well as those who have implemented outcomes of research in their farming operations.

Coming research updates are:

[Bundaberg: February 26, 2019](#)

[Ingham: April 2, 2019](#)

[Tully: April 3, 2019](#)

[Cairns: April 4, 2019](#)

[Proserpine: April 18, 2019](#)

TropAg – November 11 to 13, 2019

TropAg is a world leading tropical agriculture conference bringing together the best in research and innovation, across plant, animal and food sciences. TropAg focuses on science and technology solutions across the tropical agriculture and food supply chain. The 2019 conference will focus on 'Shaping the science of tomorrow' across five program themes: field crops, horticulture, livestock, nutritious food and an [AgFutures](#) stream hosted by DAF focused on technology and investment. The TropAg scientific program committee are calling for symposia proposals to be submitted by 1 March and abstracts by 15 May 2019. Conference registrations will open in mid-2019 via the TropAg website tropagconference.org