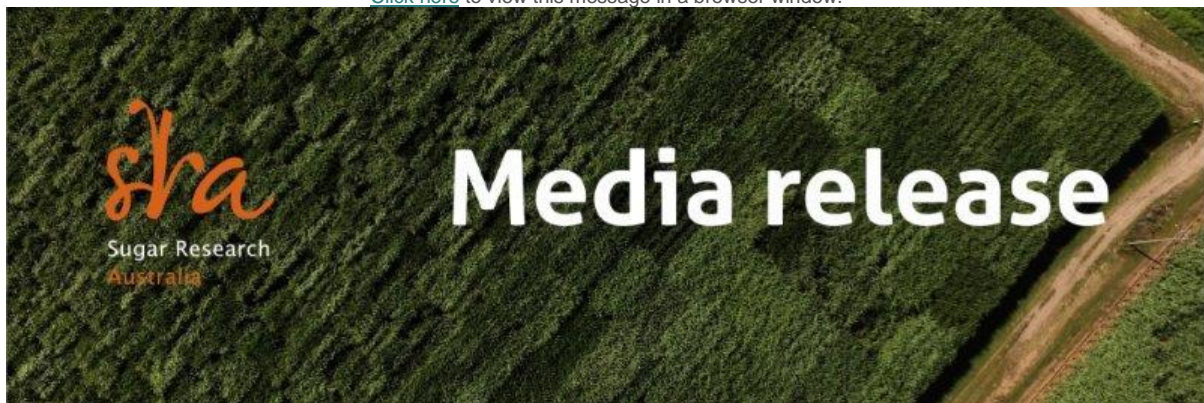


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30 September 2022

Funding round opens for new sugarcane industry research and innovation initiatives

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is inviting research and innovation funding applications that address specific industry challenges to improve the productivity and profitability of the Australian sugarcane industry.

Head of Research Investment Jane Trindall said applications are being sought to address challenges that have been co-designed with industry to achieve the objectives of the SRA strategic plan and research missions.

"We've analysed our portfolio of research and problems facing the industry, and this funding call seeks applications that address the most pressing challenges and issues facing the industry," Ms Trindall said.

"Working hand in hand we can deliver benefits by solving challenges quicker than before, for all industry participants."

Eight pressing industry challenges are targeted in the funding round:

- technology application for a step change
- biosecurity surveillance, preparedness and response
- optimising disease, weed and pest management
- climate resilience and mitigation
- new products and value chains
- soil health - balanced nutrient management
- understanding the customer

- data-driven agronomic decisions.

“All applications are to be collaborative, with more than one partner and we encourage researchers, small-to-medium enterprises, start-ups, corporates, growers, millers and venture capitalists to work together and submit proposals so we can create real benefit and impact for the industry,” Ms Trindall said.

“Strong applications will make a significant contribution to address industry challenges, present a high-quality approach with a multi-disciplinary team, provide access to cutting edge technologies, and a credible pathway to adoption to benefit Australian sugarcane growers and millers and the industry broadly.

“We hope to attract collaborations with the best and the brightest from Queensland and across the world to shape the future prosperity of the Australian sugarcane industry and regional communities through innovation and ingenuity.”

The funding round is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) which co-invests with SRA in research, development and extension projects that improve the prosperity and sustainability of the sugarcane industry. DAF provides \$2.85 million to SRA annually for sugarcane research, development and extension.

Applications close at 5pm, Wednesday 2 November 2022. They can be submitted by emailing contracts@sugarresearch.com.au.

SRA expects to advise applicants whether they have been successful or unsuccessful by the end of December and to contract new projects in February 2023.

[Further information on the funding round](#) is available on the SRA website.

*** SRA is the industry-owned corporation for research, development and adoption for the Australian sugarcane industry and invests in targeted research activities that will deliver benefits on-farm and at the mill.*

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