



Today we open funding applications for SRA research and innovation initiatives with the aim of improving the sustainability and prosperity of the industry into the future. We are excited to see what new projects will come through the door.



## **Funding round opens for new research and innovation initiatives**

SRA is inviting funding applications for research and innovation initiatives.

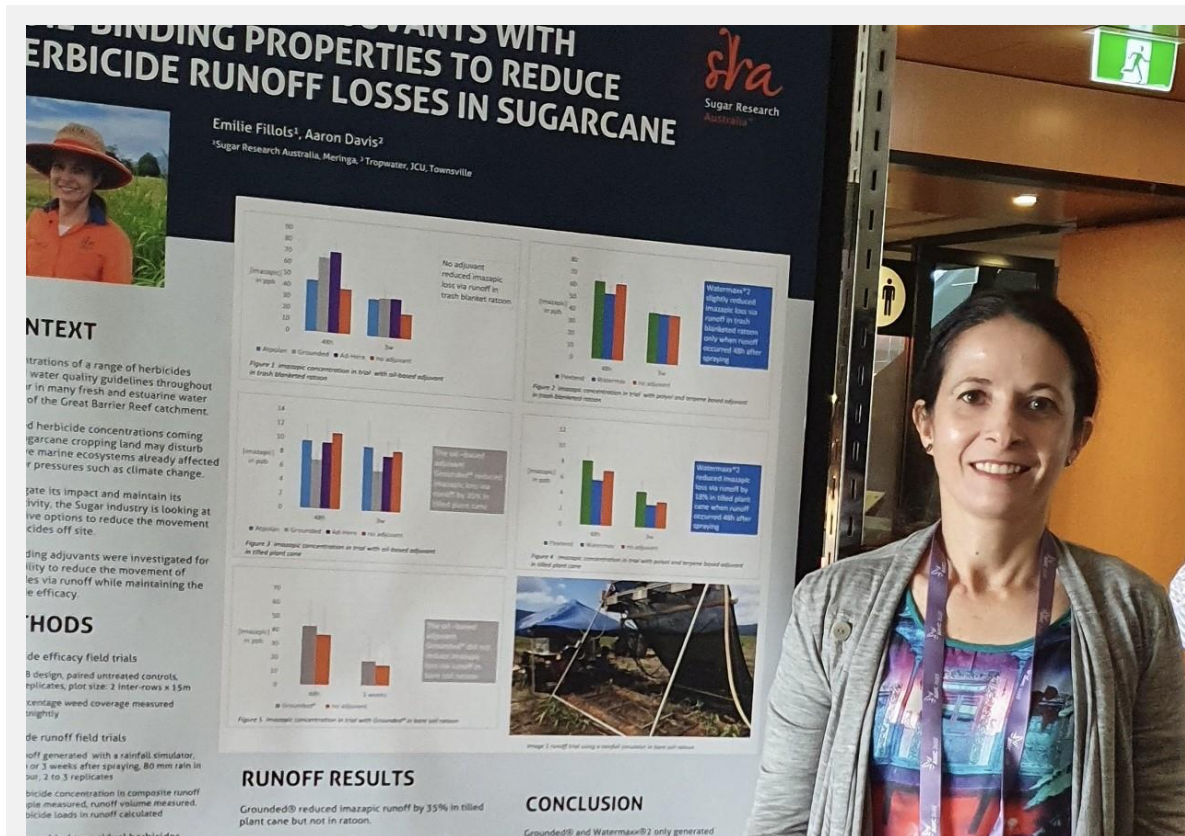
Head of Research Investment Jane Trindall said applications are being sought to address specific industry challenges that have been co-designed with industry to achieve the objectives of the SRA strategic plan and research missions.

Eight pressing industry challenges are targeted as part of Round 1 funding:

- 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.

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.

[More information and how to apply](#)



## Weeds in sugarcane on the agenda in Adelaide

This week SRA weed specialist Emilie Fillols (*pictured*) travelled to Adelaide to present at the 22nd Australasian Weeds Conference.

Emilie's presentation highlighted the challenges growers face to control their weeds and limit the off-target impact of herbicides on the ecosystems of the Great Barrier Reef.

She also presented a poster comparing the effectiveness of a range of soil binding herbicides to reduce herbicide run-off.

The conference sessions focused on a broad range of thematic in the space of weed management in crops and environmental weed management. These included: environmental biosecurity, herbicide resistance and farming system changes, biological control and weed detection technologies.

*“This conference is an important forum for weed managers to get together to share and debate ideas and to learn about the latest scientific and technological advances,” Emilie said.*



## Calling canegrower advisors and extension providers in FNQ

Jeanette Long (*pictured*) is a Director and Facilitator, Trainer and Coach for Ag Consulting Co. She is passionate about developing people skills in agriculture and has a particular interests in facilitation and extension skills as well as working with rural women.

Travelling from Undalya, South Australia, Jeanette will be hosting facilitation skills workshops in Mourilyan, Far North Queensland for advisors and extension providers working with canegrowers.

The free two-day workshop will be held on 2 and 3 November and is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

The workshop is capped at 20 participants.

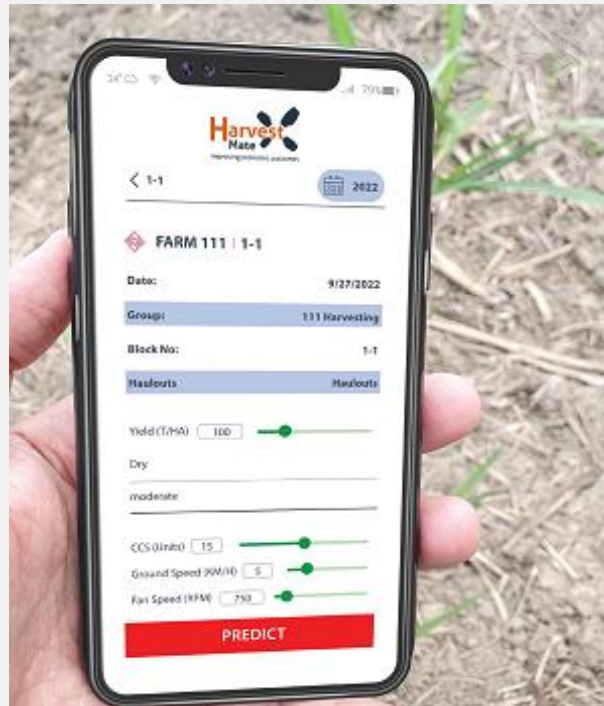
[For more information and to book your spot](#)

## Harvest Mate welcomed

The first of a series of harvesting trials was held last week in Yuruga that included testing of the newly developed SRA DAF *Harvest Mate* decision support tool (pictured).

Feedback of the smartphone app was positive with further validation trials to occur in the coming months, with dates and venues to be confirmed soon, before a full launch of the product early next year.

*Our thanks to project participants  
Department of Agriculture and  
Fisheries, CANEGROWERS Herbert  
River, Clevvi and Agrifutures.*



## Northern variety ID guide and workshop

Variety identification workshops were held recently at Meringa Station for regional productivity service staff, cane extension officers, supply staff and other advisors (*pictured*).

Hosted by Variety Development Manager Far North Felicity Atkin, the sessions were supported by Far North District Manager Gavin Rodman and District Delivery Officer Paul Calcino who had worked with the Variety Development team to produce the first Northern ID guide since 2018.

Variety identification guides support the user identify botanical characteristics of the sugarcane plant. This can be particularly useful when identifying newer varieties. Note: Identification guides are only for use in the region they have been produced.

Participants' feedback: *"I now know that I need to understand growth habit more."*  
*"Did not know that suckers are usually hairy and have auricles which clears up a lot of trouble I have had in the past."*

[Download the 2022 Northern ID Guide](#)

## Help with controlling canegrubs

Central district growers – do you want a hand with controlling canegrubs?

SRA Mackay has supplies of UV spray dye and torches if growers would like to assess the effectiveness of their Confidor applicators. The goal is to minimise the impact of the current high populations of canegrubs in the region.

Contact SRA District Manager Central Dylan Wedel if you'd like an assessment on your farm. T: 049 029 387  
E: [dwedel@sugarresearch.com.au](mailto:dwedel@sugarresearch.com.au)





## Expanding?

High commodity prices and two good seasons have given farmers in some agricultural sectors confidence to invest in and expand their businesses. The latest report from ABARES shows that lending in the agricultural sector increased by 6 per cent in 2021 to \$94 billion. Farmers are investing both in purchasing land and equipment.

[ABARES' Report](#)

## Tractor sales increase

Data from the Tractor & Machinery Association show that sales of agricultural tractors continue to be strong. In August they were up by 22 per cent nationally on the same month last year and are now 2.5 per cent up on the 2022 year to date. Queensland was up 46 per cent and are 13 per cent ahead year to date.

This followed the rush of buyers that occurred in June, keen to maximise use of the [Federal Government's Temporary Full Expensing Program](#).

[Read TMA report](#)



## Farmland prices up 27%

The price of Australian farmland has increased nationally by 27 per cent from last year, according to agribusiness bank Rabobank in the latest Australian Agricultural Land Price Outlook.

Prices were driven by record low interest rates, widespread rainfall, and high prices for agricultural commodities.

NSW had most of the increase with 30 per cent of the share, followed by Queensland (22 per cent), Victoria (20 per cent), WA (12 per cent), South Australia (11 per cent) and Tasmania (4 per cent).

Farmland price growth is expected to continue, but with a significant slowdown next year with increasing costs of finance and of farm inputs such as energy and fertiliser.

[Rabobank report](#)



Seasonal workers, Patrick Water, Laura Spackman and Dave Goodall at SRA Bundaberg station.

## We're recruiting

Come and join our highly dedicated and passionate team and work on interesting and industry-critical activities. We embrace diversity and seek to attract, develop and retain the highest calibre talent.

We're looking for:

- Leader Field Pathology
- Casual Field Hands - Mackay
- Executive Assistant to the CEO

[All current vacancies here](#)



*(Left to right) Variety Development Manager Southern and New South Wales, Roy Parfitt with Plant Breeding Technician Mauricio Montoya and Field Technician Southern Phil Netz look forward to welcoming you to the SRA Bundaberg Field Day in November. Book today: [trybooking.com/CCXEF](https://trybooking.com/CCXEF)*

## SRA Events

[Advanced Pre-emergent Workshop with Weed Scientist, Emilie Filiols](#), Gordonvale, Friday 14 October, 12.30 - 4 pm.

[Facilitation Skills Workshop](#) (2 Days) Innisfail CANEGROWERS, 18-22 Bruce Highway, Mourilyan, Wednesday 2 & Thursday 3 November

[SRA Bundaberg Field Day](#), SRA Bundaberg Station, Thursday 24 November, 8.30 am – 3.30 pm.

[AGM](#) Opportunity to attend either face-to-face at SRA's Indooroopilly office, or virtually online - Monday 21 November, 2pm

## Webinar of interest

[RESCHEDULED Workforce planning connect - tools for agriculture business webinar](#) - Jobs QLD in collaboration with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, still time to register - RESCHEDULED for Wednesday 14 October.



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