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Friday 7 July 2023

SRA is excited to announce today nine new research projects focusing on advancing technology solutions, soil research and biological research on pest and disease risks and threats, and mill training programs.



Nine new research projects announced

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has announced investment in nine new research projects that will drive productivity, profitability, and sustainability for Australian sugarcane growers and millers.

These new projects add to the extensive portfolio of SRA's research investment that spans across the priorities and the five research missions identified in SRA's *Strategic Plan 2021-2026*.

[Find out more about the new research projects](#)



Woodford biosecurity visit

Members of SRA's Research Investment team recently visited SRA'S Woodford Station to increase their understanding of SRA's biosecurity research work. Manager, Biosecurity and Disease Screening, Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan discussed current projects with them. *(Photographs courtesy of SRA Research Mission Manager, Dr Stephen Mudge.)*

[More on the Woodford biosecurity visit](#)



Using mill by-products effectively

FNQ growers in Meringa and Babinda who think mill by-products may be too costly are invited to think again. This workshop will discuss how mill by-products can be effectively used to overcome soil constraints and the opportunities to adjust fertiliser inputs for improved productivity and profitability.

SRA Principal Agronomist Dr Danielle Skocaj and MSF Sugar staff will share their knowledge about the best time to apply these products, and how to target the applications strategically.

When: MERINGA, 12.30pm – 2.00pm, Thursday, 13 July.

Where: SRA's Meringa Station, 34 Hall Road (via Littles Road)

When: BABINDA, 3.00pm – 4.30pm, Thursday 13 July.

Where: CANEGROWERS Cairns Region, Babinda office, 87 Munro Street, Babinda

BOOK NOW: Mill by-products workshops



Investigating alternatives to imidacloprid

SRA Entomology Leader, Dr Kevin Powell, will be in Tully on Tuesday 18 July from 3pm - 4pm to give a presentation to growers and advisors on his work exploring alternative canegrub control, including finding a possible replacement for imidacloprid.

[BOOK TODAY: Canegrub control workshop](#)

Bundaberg Field Day - less than 2 weeks to go!

Will we see you at the Bundaberg Field Day on Thursday 20 July?

SRA Manager Biosecurity & Disease Screening, Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan (*pictured right*) will travel up from Woodford Station to talk to growers about the incidence of smut in the Southern Region – the developing issues and how to minimise smut's effects. Don't miss it.

Check out the full program: <https://bit.ly/46mmMbG>



[Book for Bundaberg Field Day](#)



[Read more about the Climate Atlas project](#)

Climate Atlas underway

[Cotton crops are being grown in Maryborough](#) in rotation with sugarcane. Who would have thought it? Now an online Climate Atlas for agriculture is being planned to understand what commodities will grow well *anywhere* in Australia. The project led by Agricultural Innovation Australia Ltd (AIA) will enable farmers to adjust their enterprise mixes, infrastructure investments and business locations, based on a projected climate horizon of the next 20-50 years. AIA and Climate Services for Agriculture will work with Australia's 13 rural Research and Development Corporations, including SRA, to identify commodity-specific requirements for the atlas.



Global Sugar Alliance welcomes caution on artificial sweeteners

The Global Sugar Alliance (GSA) has welcomed the World Health Organization's (WHO) caution about the potential health issues associated with the use of artificial sweeteners.

On 15 May, WHO found that artificial sweeteners do not help with weight loss and expressed concerns over the harmful effects their use may have on blood sugar levels, heart health and mortality.

The Global Alliance for Sugar Trade Reform and Liberalization brings together 85 per cent of the world's cane sugar exporters, including Australia.

[WHO's statement on artificial sweeteners](#)

[More from the Global Sugar Alliance's statement](#)



Update your safety plan for Farm Safety Week 16-23 July

Last year, 55 farmers lost their lives on farm. The majority were male with half aged over 50.

Nationally, agriculture continues to be renowned as one of the most dangerous industries to work in.

The quad bike was the most common agent of injury on farms between 2010 and 2020 while tractors and side-by-sides also continue to be leading causes of fatalities on farms.

The focus of Farm Safety Week 2023 will be on tractor and machinery safety.

What are you doing on your farm to ensure your own safety and that of your workers which may include your family members?

Farmsafe Australia has a series of Toolbox Talks and a free Online Induction Tool to help you acquaint your workforce with safety risks and how to report and manage them.

You may find these and the other available resources on the webpage helpful in updating your farm safety plan.

[Check out these useful farm safety resources](#)



Grants for carbon farming advice

The Land Restoration Fund's Carbon Farming Advice Scheme (CFAS) is opening for a third round of financial assistance on Monday 17 July 2023.

Eligible landholders who are keen to investigate the potential for carbon farming and co-benefit generation on their property can access up to \$10,000 worth of advice from Approved Advisers through CFAS. Total scheme funding of \$700,000 is available for this round.

Applications for funding open on 17 July 2023 and close in December 2023, or when funding is exhausted.

[Find out about the Carbon Farming Advice Scheme](#)

SRA events

[Making the most of mill by-products on farm](#) - MERINGA and BABINDA, Thursday 13 July

[Canegrubs presentation](#) - with Dr Kevin Powell, Tully Showgrounds, Tuesday 18 July

[Bundaberg Station Field Day](#) - Thursday 20 July - [book today](#)

Industry

July 2023: TAFE Queensland is offering an accelerated fee-free program for farmers to complete a Certificate IV in Entrepreneurship and New Business in 16 weeks. The program starts this month for 8-12 participants, funded by TNQ Drought Hub. [Apply today.](#)

12 noon, Wednesday 2 August 2023: Hear what young people think will transform the agricultural industry for a more prosperous tomorrow. [Book your seat.](#)

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