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eNewsletter

You can shape the future! Do you have an idea to benefit the sugar industry that needs research funding? Now's the chance to be heard with the announcement this week of SRA's 10th Anniversary Research Fund call.

Sugar Research Australia opens the 10th Anniversary Research Fund call



10TH ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH FUND CALL

Your ideas can shape the future

Stage 1 submissions due 20 December

SRA has announced the establishment of a \$16 million 10th Anniversary Research Fund to deliver impactful research investment to Australia's sugarcane industry.

SRA's Interim CEO Shaun Coffey has invited growers, millers, industry bodies, researchers, universities, and innovators to submit their visionary ideas to solve the sugarcane industry's challenges and deliver tangible outputs with industry-wide outcomes.

All submissions must be received by 5 pm AEST on Wednesday 20 December 2023.

[Read more about the 10th Anniversary Research Fund call](#)

[Submission guidelines and Concept note form](#)

[Got a question? Please email us](#)



**Sugar Research
Australia**

SRA Board welcomes two new Directors

At Sugar Research Australia's Annual General Meeting on 16 November, Chair Rowena McNally confirmed that SRA members had voted on the appointment of two new directors, Mr Chris Bosworth and Ms Donna Campagnolo.

[Read more about our new Directors](#)



Got five minutes to learn about Harvest Mate?

SRA Northern District Manager and Machinery Specialist Phil-Anthony Patane presents a 5-minute video about Harvest Mate for 'Innovation in Agriculture', an educational feature from Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA).

[Watch Phil's video here](#)



Permit granted for rat control

SRA is pleased to announce that the Herbert region has been successful in acquiring a permit to allow growers to use agricultural and veterinary chemical products for control of ground rats in regional sugarcane crops.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the staff of Queensland Cane Growers Organisation (CANEGROWERS) and CANEGROWERS Herbert River who submitted the permit application to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), SRA for technical support and advice, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd (HCPSL) for collection of on ground data, and AgForce Queensland and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for their support, the permit was granted.

This outcome wouldn't have been possible for growers without the efforts of all involved. SRA is also pleased to announce that we are working with Animal Control Technologies (Australia) and HCPSL to trial and assess different attractants on Ratoff satchets to assess whether this will assist in the controlling of ground rats.

(Above): caneland ravaged by rats and sachets of Ratoff.



Growers visit Miriwinni Lime and Gypsum

Correcting soil pH and achieving balanced nutrition is essential for productivity. That was why a group of Tully growers and advisors headed to Miriwinni Lime and Gypsum's Mt Garnet Mine and Processing Plant last week.

The group was joined by graziers from the Malanda BeefPlan group and toured the facilities, where they viewed limestone mining, processing, blending, and packing. The day included agronomic presentations by SRA Principal Agronomist Dr Danielle Skocaj and Australian Agricultural Minerals (AAM) Sales and Marketing Manager, Dan Willmann who underscored the importance of lime quality in correcting soil pH and meeting the crop's calcium requirements.

This event was jointly funded through the Mobilising the Murray project and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

[**Read more about the Mobilising the Murray project**](#)



Soil pit classes for Wet Tropics cane farmers

A practical hands-on workshop around two soil pits was held last week in Tully as part of as part of SRA Project 2021/805 Soil specific management for sugarcane production in the Wet Tropics.

UniSQ Professor Bernard Schroeder and SRA Principal Agronomist Dr Danielle Skocaj and were delighted to welcome growers who took the opportunity to ask the researchers questions about the circumstances on their own farms.

"I really enjoyed seeing the participants so engaged and having fun at the sessions while also taking the opportunity to pick our brains," Danielle said.

The event was funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

[**Read more about soil specific management in the Wet Tropics**](#)



Weed and pest management update popular with Central district growers

Yellow Canopy Syndrome (YCS), canegrubs and soldier flies were on the agenda at the Weed & Pest Management Research Update last week in Mackay and Proserpine. Growers expressed particular interest in SRA Entomology Leader Dr Kevin Powell's presentation ([above](#)) about the [project exploring control alternatives to imidacloprid](#) while his news that [new research has commenced on soldier flies](#) was well received.



Vine control and Balsam pear were the weeds top of mind for Mackay growers while vine control and itch grass preoccupied Proserpine growers. SRA Weed Scientist Emilie

Fillols (above) is leaving no stone unturned in investigating control options and was on hand to explain the most efficacious from her recent investigations.

Disease management update for Central district growers

A disease management update will be the focus of a workshop for growers in Mackay (this Monday 27 Nov) and Proserpine (this Tuesday 28 Nov).

Field Pathologist Dr Seona Casonato will be on hand to talk about RSD testing at the mill and molecular testing for Pachymetra; while Manager – Biosecurity and Disease Screening Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan will talk about smut resistance ratings and variety nematode resistance; and Pathology Senior Technician Simon Hansom will discuss chlorotic streak screening.

(Right) Easy to miss - internal RSD symptoms in cane are red spots

Be quick! RSVP today by email

More information on the disease management update

Or phone Dylan Wedel: 0490 029 387



Join the SRA team

- District Delivery Officer - Central
- Learning and Development Co-ordinator

[Current vacancies here](#)

POSITION VACANT

Events

Central District - Industry Disease Management Update - 10am - 12pm Monday 27 November (Te Kowai) and Tuesday 28 November (Proserpine).

DATE CLAIMER: [EOIs please for Sugarcane Disease Identification Workshops – 2024](#)

- 27th February – 28th February 2024 or
- 29th February – 1st March 2024

* Bookings now open on [TryBooking](#) *

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