



CANEGROWERS Sugarcane BMP

A new world-class Best Management Practice (BMP) for Australian sugarcane growers

An exciting new project will see CANEGROWERS develop a world-class best practice system for sugarcane growing.

CANEGROWERS has secured \$3.5M of funding for development and delivery of a Sugarcane BMP in partnership with the Queensland Government, in an outcome which will give sugarcane growers an opportunity to showcase that they manage their industry best management standards. As key milestones of the project are met, the Queensland Government has committed to rolling back the regulatory controls.

The CANEGROWERS Sugarcane BMP is a far more effective approach to industry change than regulations as it focuses on the business of sugarcane and delivers the environmental outcomes which will meet the expectations of the Australian community.

Success hinges on high grower adoption

A robust system and a high level of adoption of that system by sugarcane growers is the key to winding back the regulation, and ensures the sustainability of the industry into the future.

Growers have experienced firsthand the enormous work involved in compliance with regulations - it is expected that sugarcane growers will sign-up to a practical, industry led and developed system.

The rate at which regulation will be wound back, is directly linked to the rate at which cane growers adopt the new industry-led system.

What will the Sugarcane BMP look like?

The basic philosophy is that there are no set 'recipes', but rather a recognition of on-farm management styles that allow for progress towards the adoption of an improved cropping system that is based on best practice principles.

CANEGROWERS will be working with growers to develop a series of 7 web based education and training modules covering a wide range of activities, including:

1. Integrated water system management
2. Pest, disease and weed management
3. Soil health and plant nutrition management
4. Landscape and biodiversity management
5. Crop production and harvest management
7. Workplace health and safety process management
8. Farm business management

The practices contained within each module will be categorised depending on ability to improve productivity, profitability and stewardship.



CANEGROWERS

This project has received funding support from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.





Will growers be audited?

Many sugarcane growers operate to a best practice industry standard and will already comply with main parts of the BMP system. Signing on to any or all of the below steps is completely VOLUNTARY.

- Growers can undertake a self-assessment of how they comply with the modules.
- Growers can elect to undertake training to improve their knowledge in certain areas to assist achieving module accreditation.
- Growers can request an independent assessor - a qualified professional - to provide an assessment on their performance against the BMP.

What happens to the data?

Data will be owned by the sugarcane industry and will be collated to help support industry productivity, extension and R,D&E. Collated data will not identify individual farms, unless specifically requested, and will underpin industry strategy and direction, and provide indicators on progress towards meeting government policies and programs. Aggregated at the appropriate scale, data will:

- Inform the progress and success of the BMP program.
- Support industry R,D&E needs, product development and training.
- Support district and regional extension needs, product development and training.
- Provide baseline information to support continuous improvement in meeting industry reporting requirements.

Timelines and delivery

By June 2014:

- 1520 growers will have completed self-assessment of BMP modules (75% of these coming from cane growing areas between Mossman to Mackay).
- 380 will achieve BMP recognition (75% of these coming from cane growing areas between Mossman to Mackay).
- Recognised Prior Learning and professional development will be supported under the program.

More detail

Contact Malcolm Petrie, Sugarcane BMP Project Director
CANEGROWERS Queensland
L6, 190 Edward Street (GPO Box 1032), BRISBANE QLD 4000
T: 07 3864 6444 | F: 07 3864 6429 | info@canegrowers.com.au
www.canegrowers.com.au

A system that the community can rely on

The public want to believe that their iconic sugarcane industry is doing the right thing – but to do this they would like to see evidence of the progress the industry has made.

The Sugarcane BMP will be the robust system on which Australians can base their pride in our sugarcane growers on a global scale. It will become the platform of proof that can be used to show Australians and the world – the leading technology and practices for which our sugarcane growers are now renowned.

There are already a lot of products which have been developed over the past 30 years. The Sugarcane BMP project will consolidate and build on this and emerging work. It will also build on the successful Reef Rescue program, and be integrated into any future Reef Rescue-type initiatives.



Regulation removal: platform for strong cane industry

The removal of regulations was one of CANEGROWERS six imperatives for campaigning parties coming into the Queensland State election in early 2012. Regulation had been introduced for sugarcane growers some three years earlier during the 2009 election, when with the then Bligh-led government had made it an election promise to secure the then important green vote.

Since the change of government, the incoming Newman-led government has worked closely with peak group CANEGROWERS to come up with a system of milestones to be met, by which it could hand back control of the industry to the industry, and wind back regulation.

