

NEXT RATOON

CANEGROWERS MENTORING PROGRAM 2027

Seeking the next crop of leaders

This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government's Drought and Climate Adaptation Program.

Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | CANEGROWERS | Drought and Climate Adaptation Program | Queensland Government

WHAT IS THE NEXT RATOON PROGRAM?

NEXT RATOON is the CANEGROWERS Mentoring Program.

The purpose of this program is to build strong connections and to support leadership skills and knowledge that will contribute to leading a strong, profitable and innovative sugarcane industry.

This program has been designed to help you unlock a world of opportunities within our industry and is a unique chance to explore new ideas, new thinking, and build new connections with industry experts.

As a participant of NEXT RATOON you will:

CULTIVATE connections,

INNOVATE ideas, and

ACTIVATE conversations.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

At CANEGROWERS, we are dedicated to nurturing your talent and providing you with the tools to thrive. NEXT RATOON is designed to empower you - the next generation of leaders across agriculture and in the Queensland sugarcane industry.

We understand the importance of harnessing the collective knowledge and experience of our industry's seasoned professionals to guide and inspire future leaders like you.

By joining us in this transformative journey, you will receive valuable mentorship from industry experts who have committed to guiding discussions, shaping new behaviours, and facilitating your growth.

It's an exceptional opportunity to prepare for an exciting future.

Whilst the core of this program is the mentoring relationship, you will receive so much more. You will walk away with skills aimed to deepen your communication, drive future-state thinking, and tools to invest in industry networks.

The specifics of how the program works are under 'What's in it for me?'.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We are on the lookout for growers or people connected to the sugarcane industry who embody the qualities to benefit the most from the NEXT RATOON program. Is this you?

In order to apply for this program you need to be a grower with a registered business name or linked to a family member with a registered business name and aged between 18-40. We are also looking for individuals who excel with the following qualities:

1. Enthusiastic Learner

Are you keen or motivated to expand your knowledge and network within the sugarcane industry? Our ideal applicant is eager to soak up new insights and put their learnings into action.

2. Open to New Perspectives

Do you embrace fresh ideas and different viewpoints? Successful applicants will have an open-minded approach, asking questions, seeking advice, and embracing new challenges along the way.

3. Industry Dedication

Are you committed to the sugarcane industry and proud to be part of CANEGROWERS? Program participants will invest their time and effort to learn and grow, taking ownership of their goals and actively contributing to the industry's future.

4. Collaborative Spirit

Do you value connections and collaboration within the industry, with a genuine desire to drive positive change? Our ideal applicant not only listens and responds to mentor feedback but also strives to amplify the voice of the industry and ambitions of CANEGROWERS.

Sounds like an incredible group of people to be a part of, right?! If you want to join like-minded individuals to drive future growth in our industry then we'd love to see your application.

Join us on this exciting journey to shape the future of the sugarcane industry.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The following are the core components of the program kick-starting with a two-day in-person experience with both NEXT RATOON participants and mentors.

1. Exclusive Access to NEXT RATOON Event

Join us at our launch in Brisbane on 24 and 25 February 2027 for a transformational event that will expand your horizons within the sugarcane industry. NEXT RATOON participants and mentors will be facilitated by world-class experts and industry guests as the first step of the six-month program.

2. Personalised Monthly Mentoring Sessions

The minimum expectation is that you and your mentor will engage in monthly mentoring sessions for approximately 1 hour per month. These aren't just general catch-up and chat about the weather sessions though. You'll map out your core goals and mentoring focus with your mentor so these sessions are purpose-filled and provide accountability.

3. Course materials

Receive tools and materials designed to support your learning experience throughout the program.

4. Guidance and virtual connects with the Pragmatic Thinking Team

Benefit from monthly check-in sessions with the Pragmatic Thinking team, offering you valuable insights to fuel your growth. Virtual catch-up sessions will be held in April, June and July giving the entire NEXT RATOON cohort a chance to catch up, support and reflect throughout the program.

5. Next Steps for NEXT RATOON

Wrap up your incredible journey at the NEXT RATOON face-to-face one-day event on 6 August 2027 in Brisbane, celebrating the shifts that have been made, and a chance to map out your next development phase.

HOW WILL I BE MATCHED WITH A MENTOR?

We are working with industry experts and agricultural leaders who will have mentoring roles for the program. You will have a chance to provide us with your preference in terms of matched mentors, although the final matching process will be collated by CANEGROWERS.

We have every confidence that you will gain great value from your mentoring relationship due to the quality of the mentors, clear process and learning materials provided.

In addition to your mentor you will be exposed to conversations and connections with other experts across the industry, aimed to strengthen your network.

WHAT RESOURCES WILL I NEED, TO ENGAGE IN THE PROGRAM?

All course costs associated with this program are entirely subsidised by CANEGROWERS and project funding.

CANEGROWERS will cover the costs associated with travel and accommodation (if required) to attend the sessions in Brisbane in February and August 2027.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Are you ready to shape the future of the sugarcane industry?

We're excited to learn more about you and your aspirations through our application process.

If you are eager to apply, visit nextratoon.com.au and share your responses to these key questions:

Q1

Considering your own personal and professional development, what are 3 things that you would like to achieve from being involved in the NEXT RATOON mentoring program?

Q2

Describe how you would like to see the sugarcane industry evolve over the next decade and what is the first step that you would take to make this happen?

Q3

Create a two- to three-minute video (on your phone is fine) to explain why you are a good candidate for NEXT RATOON mentoring program.

Cover off the following key points:

- Why you want to be a part of the CANEGROWERS 2027 NEXT RATOON Mentoring Program.
- How you are committed to applying the learning to your work.
- What excites you about the future of the sugarcane industry.

Applications close at midnight 14 December 2026. Applicants will be advised by 22 December 2026.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please contact CANEGROWERS on (07) 3864 6444 or
email nextratoon@canegrowers.com.au
Find out more and apply at nextratoon.com.au

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