



# INNISFAIL BABINDA CANE PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES

## INNISFAIL BABINDA *'SEASON IN A SNAPSHOT'* 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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IBCPS 2017 Season Cane Productivity



***Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Ltd is a not-for-profit company and funded by a levy paid by our local growers and MSF Sugar. It works towards increasing cane productivity, managing profitability and controlling disease and pests, along with providing a reliable and honest chemical retail service.***

## OUR MISSION

*Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Ltd's core business is to enhance the productivity of the sugar industry. Its mission is to improve the quantity and quality of sugar cane grown across the South Johnstone cane supply district, in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner for both our growers and industry .*

## THE INNISFAIL BABINDA '2018 SEASON IN A SNAPSHOT' ANNUAL REPORT

This report has been produced to reflect and showcase our local industry in the year of 2018. This is not a replacement of the previous Productivity Reports , MSF Sugar will continue to produce the main Productivity Report but IBCPS will continue releasing an annual report looking at our local Innisfail Babinda Cane farming districts and what went on for the previous year of 2018. IBCPS will use it as an opportunity to showcase our growers and industry bodies, and look forward to any grower or industry input for annual reports in the future. IBCPS hopes you enjoy this report.



**2017- 2018 Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Board of Directors**

*Left to Right: Paul Cecchi, Ken Hall, Steven Bonso, Desley Vella, Deputy Chairman Wayne Gattera, Alf Strano and Chairman Mick Ward. Missing from picture: Andrew Wood and John Casale*

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*Karen and Ben Torrisi, 2017 Season Charlie Zappala Outstanding Champion Grower Award, Cane Productivity Awards Night, 2018*

## REGIONAL ISSUES

### ***A word from your manager....***

It is my pleasure to present our growers and industry with the IBCPS 2018 Annual Report, 'Season in a Snapshot', based on the activities and achievements of our local industry over the last 12 months.

The 2018 season had almost perfect weather condition for harvesting and planting to remain in full swing. Conditions were only slightly hampered early in the season with early winter rain as per usual every year. Planting was uninterrupted, with a record number of dry weeks over the planting period, allowing for all growers planning on planting to finish in good time, around late September.

The season for 2018 finished in a timely fashion, coming to and end on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018. All in all it was another great effort from our local sugar industry to complete the season, along with having some quiet achievements from our local growers and industry organisations.

A multitude of grower activities and events went on

throughout the year with plenty of grower and industry support.

Both IBCPS and its growers kicked a lot of goals in 2018 and this would not have happened without the hard work, co-operation and unity as an industry. As a local industry we have really set some standards for other mill areas and I am proud to be working with such a great bunch of growers and industry co-workers.

I personally look forward to continue working closely with our local growers and organisations to keep setting goals and working towards them.

On behalf of the IBCPS staff and board we would like to thank you, our valued growers, for your continual support and contributions throughout the 2018 season. We wish you all the best in the cane season ahead.

*Bianca Spannagle*

IBCPS Manager and Productivity Extension Officer



### **IBCPSL 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW**

After another challenging finish in 2017, the year of 2018 had the local industry worried about the crop ahead. Although another wet finish was had at the end of the 2017 crush, the beginning of 2018 had a lower than average rainfall allowing for growers to catch up on farm duties and allow the crop to recover from wet conditions. Conditions were dry from January to March, then the rain set back in, producing above average rainfall in some areas throughout the pre-season period of March to June. As per usual, rain delayed the start date in July.

The South Johnstone cane supply industry completed an average crush for the season of 2018 with around 1.6 million tonnes crushed. This equates to a district mill average of 72 TCH, with the overall seasonal CCS up from 2017; 12.08, to 13.62. The highest CCS reading for 2018 season was an 18.5 in Q250. This years productivity is the result of ideal weather, hard work and a huge team effort by industry bodies such as IBCPS, Canegrowers, MSF Sugar and more importantly our growers and contractors.

For the South Johnstone milling area, the season kicked off on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and continued through until completion on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

IBCPS growers and MSF Sugar also saw a change to the levy in 2018, going from 6.2 cents/ tonne to 7.7 cents/tonne.

#### ***IBCPS Staff and Board for 2017-2018 ....***

IBCPS saw a change to their directors in 2018. The retirement of Ray Vicarioli from the board after 6 years serving and the passing of Charlie Zappala, gave rise to two positions becoming available for growers on our board. The two new directors from our northern end of the region are, Mrs Desley Vella and Mr Steven Bonso.

After the restructure changes of the company in 2017, our three new staff members; Joshua Brook (Chemical), Rick

Ericson (Feral Pig Management Officer) and Pauline Diprose (Company Secretary and Financial Officer) settled into their new roles and have added a real benefit to the business.

Bianca Spannagle is serving the company as Manager, as well as main field extension officer for growers.

Both Bill Brand and Gary Stephensen are casual employees with the company during busy periods such as planting and Plant Source Inspections.

#### ***Achievements for IBCPS in 2018....***

After the changes IBCPS saw in 2017, the company was able to achieve some impressive company milestones.

- ⇒ Extension of the 12 month Sustainable Feral Pig Program, now continuing until 2020. Successfully received joint funding through the CCRC for larger scale Integrated Feral Pig Management Plan.
- ⇒ Successfully planted 12,852 tissue culture plants with growers for 2018 planting. IBCPS also invested in a tissue culture planter which was used by all growers in 2018. Another 11,100 seedlings were ordered for 2019.
- ⇒ Successfully run the first Wet Tropics Grower Roadshow, showcasing RSD as the 2018 topic along the coast.
- ⇒ Successfully run three large grower shed meetings throughout the IBCPS region.
- ⇒ Successfully completed the and End of Financial Year Chemical Workshop and Trade Night.
- ⇒ Successfully got approval for Aerial Rat Baiting for all of the QLD cane growing regions, initiated by IBCPS.
- ⇒ Formation of the Wet Tropics Cane Productivity Services Group, meeting quarterly to discuss matters that concern our growers in the Wet Tropics.

## SHOWCASING OUR LOCAL INDUSTRY

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Zone 1	OLIVERI CP & G
Zone 2	SACCHETTI AG & SJ
Zone 3	AZZOPARDI J & FJ
Zone 4	ZAPPALA. CA & SA
Zone 5	EDGERTON AL & KP
Zone 6	ANGELINI P MRS E & MS R
Zone 7	TORISI SR & MRS KL
Zone 8	AZZOPARDI JF & KM
Zone 9	ROBERTS NW
Zone 10	ANDERSEN AJ & DA
Zone 11	LIZZIO FJ KD & MF
Highest Farm TCH	RIVERSIDE PRODUCE
Highest Farm CCS	FENTRUNI PTY LTD
Outstanding Grower	TORISI SR & MRS KL
Harvest Group Award	Wilkins Harvesting (39)
BMP Award	Gerald Binder
Young Grower Award	Joel Pappalardo
Innovative Grower	Joe Marano

VARIETY/CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Champion Show Cane	ZAHRA LP INVESTMENTS
Three Heaviest Sticks Q208	ZAHRA LP INVESTMENTS
Three Heaviest Sticks Q200	AZZOPARDI JF & KM
Three Heaviest Sticks Q250	GUARRERA VJ
Three Heaviest Sticks Q251	BORG, DANIEL T
Three Heaviest Sticks Q253	BALLARINO MD & RL
Three Heaviest Sticks Q183	MP AUSTRALIA INVESTMENTS
Three Heaviest Sticks Minor	SINTON DP & JM Declan Sinton

### 2018 BABINDA HARVEST FESTIVAL CANE

Due to almost perfect weather conditions and timing of the event, unfortunately there was very little cane left for the 2018 season and therefore not enough to supply IBCPS for a Sugarcane Competition at the 2018 Harvest Festival.

A small display was still set up called 'Isn't all cane the same?' for the general public to see the vast variety of canes that we commercially grow in the Wet Tropics.

**IBCPS aim to have a cane competition in 2019, but we need grower support with entries for this display to continue into the future.**

### 2017/18 IBCPS CANE PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS NIGHT

Around 190 growers and their families attended the 2017 Season Productivity Awards Night held at Warrina Lakes on Thursday, 24th May 2018.

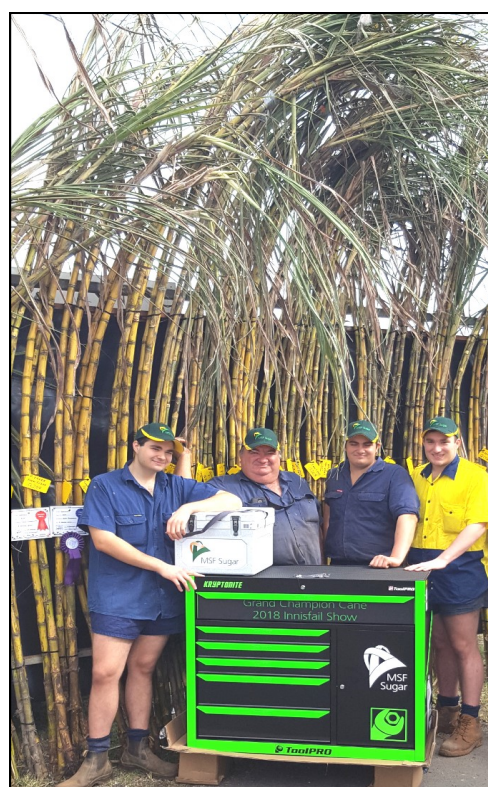
Congratulations to the winners of each zone and category. As recognition of the years of dedication to the local sugar industry, the late Charlie Zappala now has an award in his honour. The Charlie Zappala Overall Champion Grower for 2017 season was awarded to Karen and Ben Torrisi.

A special thanks to our 25 major and minor sponsors for donating great prizes this year. Without sponsorship the night would not happen.

### 2018 INNISFAIL SHOW CANE DISPLAY COMPETITION

The 2018 Innisfail Show sugarcane competition was completed successfully with a huge effort shown by growers from the Innisfail Babinda growing districts. Seven classes of the heaviest three sticks were competed for in a range of varieties, some old and some new. Mundoo grower Peter Zahra had an impressive display of Q208 entries and won champion cane of the show with his Q208 being superior in weight and brix. The standard of the cane displayed was

only average due to growing conditions but was still one of the highlights of the show as it provided an avenue for show patrons to move to other pavilions. MSF Sugar and IBCPS provided the coordination and sponsorship for the event but it is primarily the growers who should be thanked, without their contribution the display would be much less. Planning is already underway for next year's show.



Peter Zahra and his sons collecting their prize proudly donated by MSF Sugar for 2018 Champion Show Cane.

Varietal performance for 2018, saw the overall CCS trend start and finish exceptionally higher compared to previous years.

The area saw a reasonable wet start to the year with some significant flood events throughout January to March. As per usual we experienced some minor wet weather at the beginning of the season but for the remainder of the season, weather conditions were textbook perfect. The dry conditions experienced encouraged the increased CCS average across the district. As mentioned previously in this report, the Relative CCS finished on 13.62, with an average of 72TCH. Growing conditions for some of our newer varieties; Q253, Q252, Q250 and Q240 were optimal for the performance of that variety

and they really started to prove their presence in our northern region. Q208 and Q200 are still proving to be the most popular varieties in the IBCPS area.

Discussions with your local extension officer are always an ideal source of information on what varieties are doing well on similar farms. At the end of the day, variety selection is not an easy task and the majority of the time there will be a different result for individual growers. Industry is working hard to narrow this selection process down for you.

More detailed variety data for 2018 season will be presented at the IBCPS Grower Shed Meetings in March.

## 2018 RELEASED VARIETIES

*(Available for distribution in IBCPS plots this year)*

### **SRA15 (QS91-7008 x Q200)**

This variety was released at 2018 RVC meeting. CCS was + 0.3CCS above the standards used in SRA with TSH +1.1 above the standards. The variety has so far shown an improved TCH in ratoon crops. This variety is intermediate to Smut and Pachymetra and resistant to Leaf Scald.

### **SRA16 (QN97-2328 x QN96-1162)**

This variety was released at 2018 RVC meeting. CCS was - 0.2 below the standards used in SRA with TSH equal to the standards. Although the information above may sound underwhelming, a huge positive for this variety is its disease resistance. The variety is resistant to Smut, Pachymetra and Leaf Scald.

## POSSIBLE VARIETIES FOR THE FUTURE

### **QN08-1161 (Q208 x CP94-1607)**

This variety was MaxProp at 2018 RVC meeting for possible release in 2019. CCS was 0.7 CCS above the standards used in SRA with TSH 0.8 above the standards. This potential variety is resistant to Smut, Pachymetra and Leaf Scald.

### **QN08-2282 (QN97-2122 x Q146)**

This variety was MaxProp at 2018 RVC meeting for possible release in 2019. CCS was 0.3 CCS above the standards used in SRA with TSH 0.9 above the standards. This potential variety is intermediate to Pachymetra and resistant to Smut and Leaf Scald.

### **QN08-1898 (Q241 x QC89-432)**

This variety was MaxProp at 2018 RVC meeting for possible release in 2019. CCS was 0.5 CCS below the standards used in SRA with TSH 0.8 above the standards (another high TCH, lower CCS clone). This potential variety is intermediate to Smut and resistant to Leaf Scald and Pachymetra

Seven more clones were accelerated at the RVC meeting into Approved Seed Plots. These clones will be reviewed at the 2019 N RVC to identify which of these clones will be maximum propagated for possible release in 2020.

### **The 'wonder' cane of the Burdekin....**

#### **WSRA17 (Q208 x Tellus- )**

After an impressive ABC Radio interview about a variety that may just solve everyone's problems, WSRA17 became a very talked about variety late in the season.

WSRA17 has a Smut and Pachymetra rating of 6, with the Northern region breeding limit for Pachymetra being 5.5.

This variety has also been established in the Northern FAT's, meaning there is no Northern performance information on WSRA17. Its delay in entering Northern FATs was due to both its initial Smut Susceptible rating (recently changed from a 7 rating to 6 in June 2018) and its Intermediate-Susceptible (6) rating for Pachymetra. For these reasons, WSRA17 has also not been approved for planting by the Northern RVC.

Growers who wish to order WSRA17 as Tissue Culture do it at their own risk, as the completion of the order is dependent on WSRA17's approval by the Northern RVC. If the Northern RVC **does not approve this variety**, billing for the TC lab and Nursery will be at the **grower's expense**.

## TISSUE CULTURE

In total, 12, 852 tissue culture seedlings were ordered and planted in 2018. A total of 9 growers were involved in planting this year which is up from just the one grower who was involved for the past few years. IBCPS invested in a planter for grower to use for planting seedlings.

Varieties ordered in 2018 were, Q200, Q208, Q247, Q251, KQ228, plus a handful of new SRA varieties. All growers successfully transplanted and established their crops using several watering methods and planting styles.

For spring planting in 2019, 11,100 seedling have been ordered, most being established, commercial varieties.

# BIOSECURITY IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

## CHANGES TO BIOSECURITY IN 2017 & INTO THE FUTURE...

At the end of 2016 in to 2017, industry and the states of Queensland and NSW saw changes to the previous Biosecurity Act and therefore new laws related to farm biosecurity were established.

Times have changed. Everyone now has responsibility for reducing the risks posed by pest, diseases and weeds. The new legislation sets out laws that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility.

Everyone has a role to play in safe guarding Australia from endemic and exotic pests.

Growers are not expected to know everything about all biosecurity risks, but you are expected to know about risks associated with your work or day-to-day activities.

It is important to remember how essential it is to be ever mindful of biosecurity issues in our industry. The most important thing you can do is to be on the lookout for strange diseases or pests and ring IBCPS extension staff immediately.

For growers in Queensland, detailed information is available from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or you can collect your copy of the most recent **Biosecurity Manual for Sugarcane Procedures (Version 1.0 January 2017)** from Canegrowers Organisations or your IBCPS Office.

## MACHINERY & PLANT INSPECTIONS

The other critical factor is to thoroughly clean and have any machinery or plant material travelling across quarantine boundaries INSPECTED by an authorised person.

Boundaries which effect our area directly (**Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 1: Coen to Townsville**) :

- Far Northern Biosecurity Zone 1 and 2 ( The tip to Coen)
- Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 2 ( Townsville to Abbot Point).
- Machinery and seed may be moved between Coen and Townsville ONLY without a permit. Cane material should always be discussed with your Cane Productivity Service first.

All appliances (harvesters and other sugarcane machinery) moving between sugarcane biosecurity zones must:

- Be FREE of cane trash and soil.
- Be inspected by an authorised inspection person (Bianca Spannagle-IBCPS) who will issue a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC).

- By accompanied during transportation by the PHAC.

As an industry we only need to take a look in our backyard and see the disaster which aquaculture farmers are presently facing with white spot disease and remember back, not too far, to some important cane diseases which would not have been cleaned up so quickly without quarantine areas.

### Process to book in for a Plant or Machinery Inspection:

- Contact Bianca Spannagle **at least 1 week prior to sending any machinery.**
- The consigner will be supplied with a clean inspection checklist prior to any booking that must be completed.
- Inspection will be completed twice and once machinery is passed as competent, the consigner will be supplied with the correct paperwork. Please follow all instructions provided by the inspector.
- Other CPS have made it clear that if machinery turns up in their zone without a PHAC certificate or contaminated, they will send a cleaning bill to the consigner.

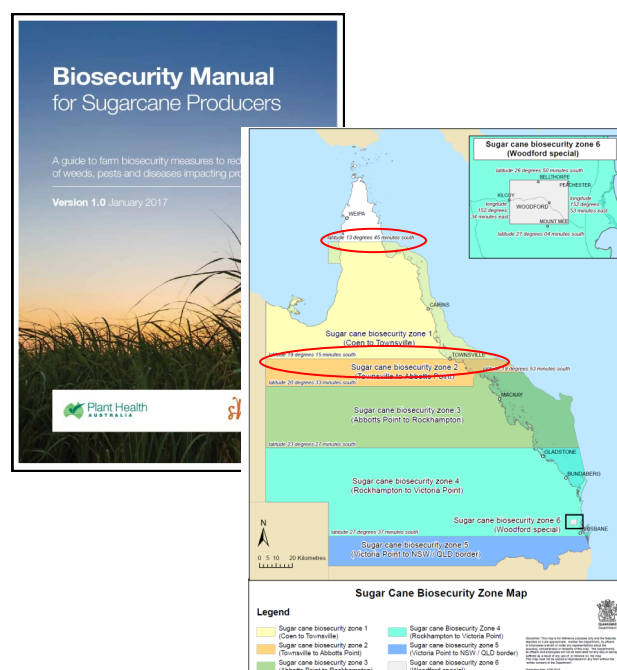
***Cane regions adjoining us have some nasty diseases and weeds which we certainly do not want in this district.***

***An important take home message for all of us to help you and your fellow growers.....***

***DO NOT move machinery without inspection***

***DO NOT bring cane in from other areas***

***Be on the lookout for anything strange and let extension staff know!***



## RATOON STUNTING DISEASE

# HAS YOUR MACHINE HAD A ?

## STOP THE SPREAD OF RSD

### WET TROPICS CANE PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES GROUP

Plant Source Inspection (PSI) results revealed alarming numbers of positive samples for Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) during the 2017 season. IBCPS raised the question with neighbouring mill areas and all of a sudden the issue became something each Cane Productivity Services (CPS) was experiencing.

Realising that the Wet Tropics mill areas were all sharing very similar issues, IBCPS initiated the formation of the Wet Tropics Cane Productivity Services Group. All of the cane productivity services from Mossman, Tablelands and down to Tully meet every 3 months to discuss current and future issues for our growers in the north and as a larger group work towards outcomes that can be achieved at both a regional and district level. The group's main focus is to continue providing all of our growers in the north with a high level of core productivity services and to ensure that the messages our growers hear are the same from Tully to Mossman.



*The Wet Tropics Cane Productivity Services Group. Missing from picture: Matt Hessian and Daryl Parker. 2018*

### WET TROPICS RSD ROADSHOW 2018

As a result of all mill areas in the north experiencing different levels of RSD infection, it was decided in 2018 that a campaign be initiated for the Wet Tropics in an attempt to increase grower and contractor awareness and work towards reducing levels of infection.

The group decided to address this issue and work very closely with SRA and other sugar industry stakeholder to campaign and educate our growers on what RSD is and to encourage clean seed uptake to reduce levels of RSD throughout the Wet

Tropics.

A RSD road show was coordinated throughout the Wet Tropics from the 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. IBCPS hosted the Road Show on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March during grower shed meetings. Across all Wet Tropics meetings approx. 240 growers attended. IBCPS growers really took action after the roadshow, and are to be congratulated on their efforts in the clean seed space.

The group plan to continue meeting quarterly and will be looking to hold another roadshow in 2019 based on a new industry topics.

### IBCPS RSD External Review in 2018

To take things one step further from the roadshow in the IBCPS district, the board discussed options to decrease the level of infection in the mill area to in turn increase productivity and therefore profitability for our growers in the long term. A lot of suggestions were thrown around but the board agreed that none of them were experts on this disease and it would be only fitting to request an external review from Dr Anthony Young (UQ) and Dr Rob Magarey (SRA).

### *The aim of the review was:*

- To assess IBCPS's current RSD control program effectiveness and make recommendations for improvement.
- To facilitate ongoing dialogue between IBCPS, MSF Sugar, Sugar Research Australia and Anthony Young to drive improved RSD control in the South Johnstone mill cane growing district.
- The IBCPS board are to consider recommendation provided from the review and agree on what changes need to be implemented. All stakeholder and IBCPS growers will be apart of this conversation and will be consulted early 2019.
- Once agreed on by the IBCPS board, the review recommendations are to be implemented before the 2019 planting and ratooning season commences.
- Continue to monitor the RSD situation in the mill area to ensure improvements are continuously being implemented and updated and infection levels are decreasing across the Mill area.

# RATOON STUNTING DISEASE - EXTERNAL REVIEW

## A WORD FROM THE RESEARCHERS

### Dr Rob Magarey Review Summary

*The RSD review provided me with an excellent opportunity to find out what has led to the poor RSD situation in the Babinda-South Johnstone area. It appears from the review that recommended best-practice RSD management has not been adequately applied for over 15 years. This could adequately explain the high disease incidence – there appear to be few unexplained reasons for disease escalation.*

*Key contributing factors are a loss of experienced IBCPS / BSES-SRA extension staff; IBCPS staff numbers have dropped very significantly over the period leading to reduced emphasis on RSD integrated disease management procedures, poor application of best-practice assay procedures and a lack of on-ground disease-management services for farmers. Other contributing factors to the situation include two severe cyclones destroying nursery cane, rapid return of tree farms to commercial production, the smut epidemic - which re-directed attention away from RSD, and lastly farmer apathy in the application of needed control measures.*

*It should be noted that the true extent of the RSD incidence in the region is yet to be adequately assessed; this needs to be undertaken quickly, and with high priority, to provide an economic guide to local industry on the way forward. A representative survey, using the best assay procedures, should be undertaken along with an economic analysis to quantify the economic effect of the disease on the region. Such a survey would allow better prioritisation of IBCPS staff activities to make maximum productivity gains for the area. With better assay technology, more (rather than less) RSD will be detected. A current very rough estimate of the economic cost of RSD in the South Johnstone mill area is \$1-3m.*

### Dr Anthony Young Review Summary

*Recognising that RSD is a problem is the first step toward improving productivity in the IBCPS area. Without an integrated approach that incorporates all available management tools, it is likely that RSD will persist, as it has done for over 60 years. The basis for improved RSD management is a well-resourced extension campaign. In order to change the culture, growers need to buy in to the program.*

*It is in the best interests of the entire IBCPS area to make clean seed as affordable as possible. Data from the Herbert (Stringer et al. 2016) and Harwood (Young 2017) demonstrates an increased yield of 13% following improved RSD control measures. Although (as stated in the Introduction), it is impossible to solely attribute these increases to improved RSD management, in both cases this 13% increase directly followed augmented RSD control. If this was to be translated in the IBCPS area, this would amount to an increased cane tonnage of 257,778 t in 2016:*

$$1.13 \times 1,982,905 \text{ t} = 2,240,683 \text{ t}$$

$$2,240,683 \text{ t} - 1,982,905 \text{ t} = 257,778 \text{ t}$$

*At a cane price of \$30/t after harvesting, this amounts to \$7.7 million of lost revenue. If we are highly conservative and claim that RSD is causing only half of the 13% yield loss, that equates to \$3.9 million of lost revenue. And for the sake of argument, if RSD is only causing a tenth of the estimated 13% yield loss, thus is still approximately \$800,000 dollars of lost revenue. This clearly shows that any investment by IBCPS in RSD control will pay significant dividends. Given the rewards available, the culture within a productivity area can change remarkably quickly. The key short-term objective is to greatly expand the volume of clean seed available for uptake. This will take significant resourcing and will require grower buy in. Seedcane costs should be kept as low as possible. Within two years of a dramatic increase in ASP output, growers will experience increased productivity which will entrench improved and lasting participation in ASP uptake. The role of tissue-cultured plants needs to be further explored.*

*An RSD survey will help better delimit the incidence and impacts of the disease. This should use the best diagnostic technique available and target fields representative of seedbeds and commercial crops. Growers will need to take the time to supervise decontamination activities. Under no circumstances should planting material from unknown provenance be introduced onto farms.*

### What is the next step for IBCPS?

IBCPS will spend the next 12 months consulting with the reviewers and our stakeholders, including growers, about any changes or improvements the company will make in response to this external review. A large scale COMMERCIAL block survey will be conducted pre-season which will include 1000 plus fields randomly sampled. Growers who's blocks are randomly selected will be contacted prior to a farm visit. All growers will be consulted at shed meetings in March—please come along to be apart of the process. If any growers or stake holders wish to discuss this further or view the review documents, please speak to Bianca Spannagle for this to be arranged.

# IBCPS CLEAN SEED PROGRAM

## PLANT SOURCE INSPECTIONS (PSI)

Every year IBCPS completes plant source inspections for growers throughout the district. PSI's are a vital part of farm management to ensure you are using clean material on your farm. Utilising clean, disease free material is the initial key step to increase productivity and profitability for you agribusiness.

IBCPS was overwhelmed with the number of plant material inspections booked in 2018. After hosting the 2018 Wet Tropics RSD Roadshow, this seemed to awaken grower interest in improving clean material practice on farm and our growers can only be congratulated on their efforts and encouraged to continue to do so into the future.

**6 Years of RSD Sampling Throughout IBCPS Mill Area**

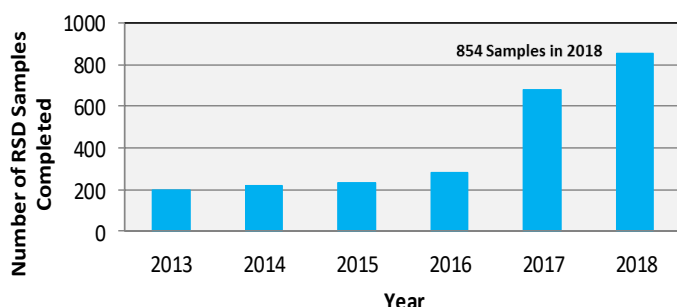


Table 1.

IBCPS started to push the barrier in 2018 to really get a grasp on the level of infection across our mill area. As shown in Table 1, from 2013 to 2016, the number of samples taken for growers was quite low sitting around 230 samples taken across a 22,000 hectare area (remembering one sample = one block of a variety).

In 2018, IBCPS completed the highest recorded number of sampling for the last 15 years. Why? We needed to look deeper into our level infection across the area after the results received in 2017, and although this is a large number of samples it still does not tell us the status of our commercial blocks of cane.

**Number of Positive vs Negative Samples over 6 years Throughout IBCPS Mill Area**

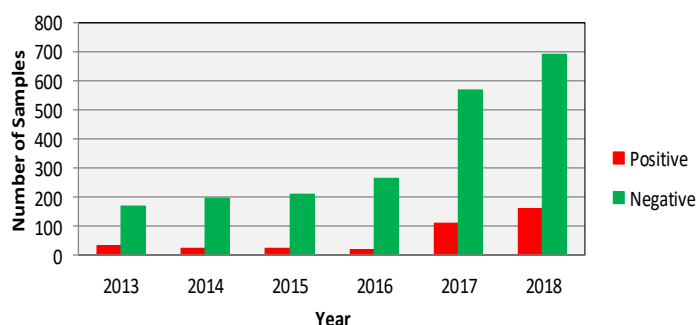


Table 2.

Table 2 really emphasises that the harder we look the more infection we find. In both 2017 and 2018, as the level of sampling increased, so did the level of infection in growers plant material blocks of cane.

Looking at 2018 data in Table 3, the highest level of infection was in RP and fallow PL blocks of cane. This is really quite alarming as a local industry and highlights a number of issues and fundamental practices that we all need to work on.

**Infected Planting Material by Crop Class 2018 ONLY**

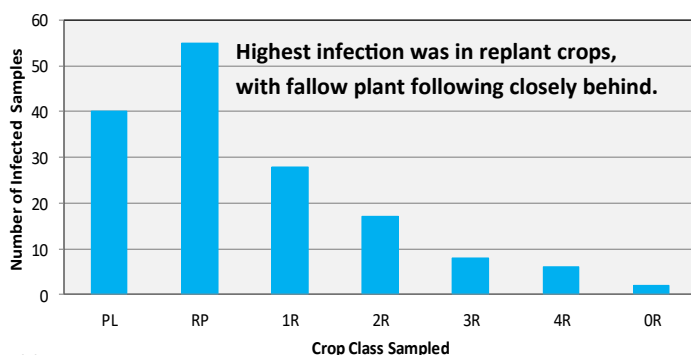


Table 3.

Together as a local industry IBCPS aim to work closely with our growers who do have levels of infection on farm and aim to improve the overall clean seed program for all of our growers to bring infection levels down. At Grower Shed Meetings in 2018, IBCPS set a goal with their growers to aim for a 5% infection rate by 2023, and we will continue to work towards that goal together.

### Process for arranging inspection bookings (FREE) :

1. An IBCPS Plant Inspection Appointment Form must be completed prior to having plants sampled. Forms must be **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2019**.
2. If forms are not completed and handed in by this date, an inspection and RSD sampling will not be prioritized over growers who have handed in forms and there is no guarantee they will be completed.
3. Growers must nominate a month they plan on planting. This will allow staff to prioritise sampling throughout the year. From date of sample collection to sample results returned – there is approximately a **3 week turn around** before a grower receives their results.
4. Please nominate all possible plant sources listed to ensure material is inspected in a timely fashion, especially if initial material selection returns a positive result. **INSPECTIONS WILL BE COMPLETED/CLOSED AS OF THE 1ST AUGUST 2019.**

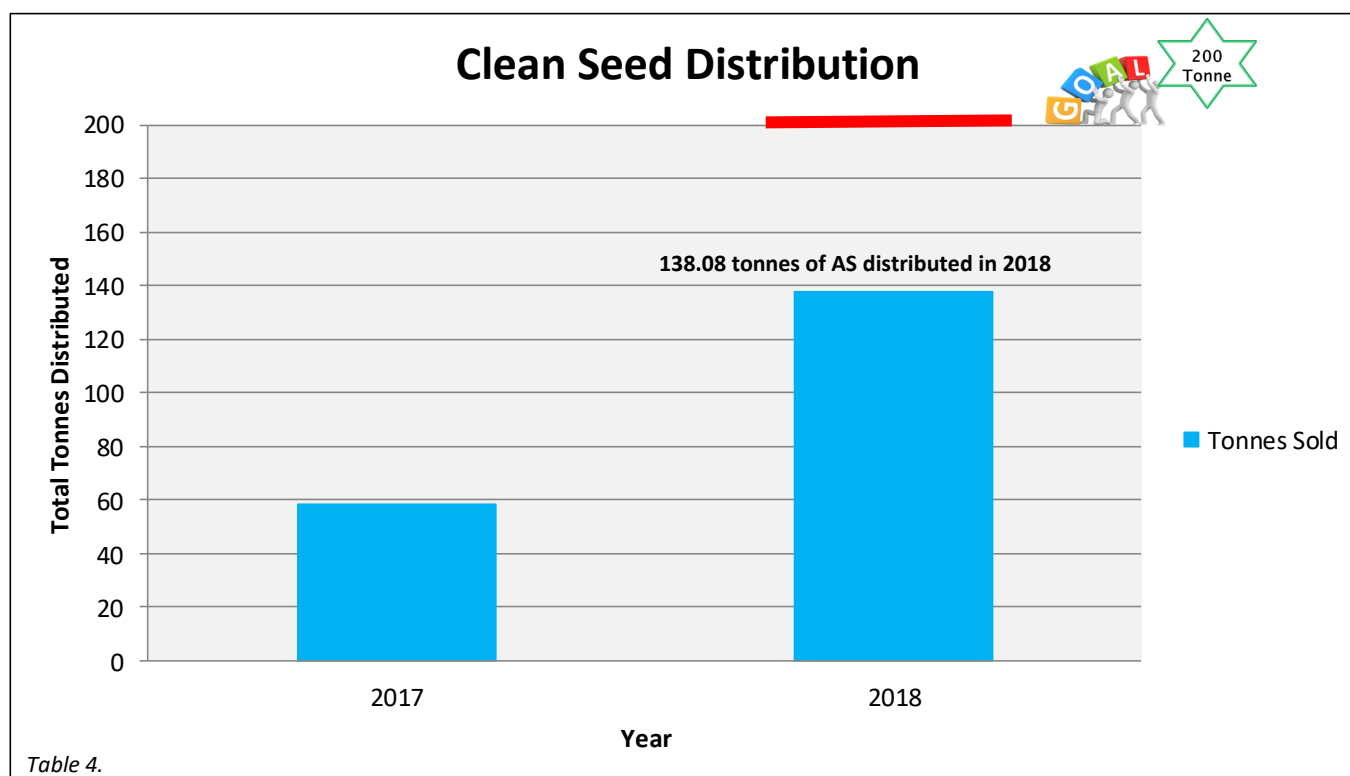
# IBCPS CLEAN SEED PROGRAM

## IBCPS APPROVED CLEAN SEED PLOTS

IBCPS have clean seed cane distribution plots throughout the sub - districts including Kurrimine-Hobsons Plot, Martyville Plot, Bartle Frere Plot and Babinda Central Plot. These plots have strict protocol that must be followed under an agreement with SRA to ensure growers receive clean, disease free seed each year. There seemed to be some confusion around the disease status of Martyville Plot last year. To be clear, yes, Martyville had one positive variety (Q240) in 2017 which was immediately quarantined by SRA, eradicated and ALL four plots were extensively tested for any further contamination. No further varieties were infected with RSD and IBCPS can confidently say all plots were disease free in 2018 and will continue to be into the future.

Clean seed distribution saw a healthy amount of seed released in comparison to recorded data for the last 5 years. IBCPS introduced the option of trailer drop-off and pick-up and growers really took advantage of this service. With such a successful first year of running this service, it will continue to be offered into 2019. IBCPS will not deliver any seed at this stage and it will continue to run as a drop-off/pick-up service.

There will be a slight price increase in 2019 as IBCPS had not calculated the cost of providing this type of service in 2018. Please understand that although there is an increase, IBCPS and its contractors have tried their best to keep costs as low as possible and look forward to continue providing an improved service to you in 2019 (see attached price list 2019).



### Process to order Clean Seed from Plots:

1. An **IBCPS Approved Clean Seed Order Form** must be completed prior to opening of plots. Forms must be **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 3rd MAY 2019. ALL PLOTS WILL CLOSE 1ST OCTOBER 2019.**
2. **Seed allocation on older commercial varieties** will be calculated based on orders for material on order forms. As many growers learnt in 2018, if you do not return an order form you can miss out on a variety.
3. **Seed allocation for new release varieties** will be similar to older commercial variety orders. To make quotas larger in 2019, quota allocations will be based on ORDER FORMS ONLY. Again, if you fail to return an order form and a variety is fully ordered, unfortunately you miss out.
4. At no time should a grower be on the plot sites without an IBCPS staff member being notified and present.
5. Please contact Bianca Spannagle for further information on plots in 2019 and attend 2019 shed meetings for a more detailed update.

***THERE IS LIMITED STOCK ON SOME VARIETIES SO PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR ORDER FORMS BY THE DUE DATE TO SECURE YOUR VARIETY MATERIAL. IF YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE FULFILLED IBCPS WILL CONTACT YOU ASAP.***

# IBCPS CLEAN SEED PROGRAM

## TISSUE CULTURE

Tissue culture is a relatively new practice to our milling area that is starting to be utilised by growers for clean material. Tissue culture helps growers access varieties faster and reduce the risk of serious diseases including Ratoon Stunting Disease, Leaf Scald and Fiji Leaf Gall.

### Process to order Tissue Culture:

- An IBCPS **TISSUE CULTURE ORDER FORM** must be completed and **RETURNED BY:**
  - **Autumn Planting(2020): 1st July, 2019**
  - **Spring Planting(2020): 15th November, 2019**

IBCPS are pleased to announce the investment of a TC planter readily available to our growers in the new year. In 2018, 8 growers ordered and planted 12,852 seedlings. This equates to a further **67 tonnes of clean material distributed** on farm in 2019. Orders for 2019 planting came to a total 11,100 seedling for planting in Spring, which will equate to a further **55 tonnes of clean material** distributed on farm in 2020. Several watering methods were used in 2018 planting, from water trucks to permanent irrigation set ups and fortunately growers involved had successful planting. If you would like more information on Tissue Culture or would like to place and order, please contact Bianca Spannagle.



*Growers attending the Mission Beach Tissue Culture Nursery in the Tissue Culture Bus Trip. 2018*



*Northern grower Max Wilkins standing next to his 2018 spring planting and his prepped legume fallow for spring 2019 planting.*

## HOT WATER TREATMENT (HWT)

IBCPS treated very little clean cane in 2018, but for good reason. As per usual IBCPS treated all the Approved Clean Seed Plot cane and no grower cane. This might sound disappointing but, growers collected much larger amounts of approved clean seed in 2018 compared to previous years, and this is a huge step in the right direction to helping clean up RSD infection rates in our mill area.

IBCPS will still offer two services for heat treatment:

1. Whole stick treatment
2. Billet treatment (1T cages)

### Process to book in for Hot Water Treatments:

1. An IBCPS **HOT WATER TREATMENT App Form** must be completed and **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2019.**
2. A week must be selected on the form to ensure your treatment is booked in. Cane will only be treated if it has been RSD inspected and returned a **NEGATIVE** result. Positive RSD cane **WILL NOT** be treated.
3. Tanks will only be switched on during mill start-up and mill finish. (Usually between July - October)
4. You may also request a copy of the temperature data collected throughout your cane's treatment.



## WEED MANAGEMENT, PESTS & DISEASES

*As we do every year, at the end of the 2018 season staff from IBCPS completed an extensive pest survey throughout the district. Data was collected and losses were calculated. This survey continues to provide baseline data for further surveys in the future and can assist when applying for any projects or funding such as the Feral Pig Program and the rat baiting permit. Grower co-operation when completing these pest surveys, as always is appreciated.*

***For the 2018 season 72% (ha) of the mill area was surveyed and total pest damage came to \$2,021,130 lost to SJ Mill cane growing area.***

### YELLOW CANOPY SYNDROME (YCS)

YCS cases in 2018 were again not of any real concern to the mill area. There were only two possible cases of YCS but nothing confirmed. Growers were updated about YCS at the 2018 grower updates hosted by SRA in Innisfail and Cairns.

Although SRA can be praised for their efforts and findings so far, frustratingly for them and us, there is still no direct answers or causes for YCS.

For our region, YCS still remains a low risk to growers. For more information refer to the SRA website or the SRA newsletter updates, your local SRA Co-ordinator (Daryl Parker) or IBCPS extension staff.

***If you're concerned about a block of cane that could potentially be a YCS case, please contact Bianca for further assessment.***

### PACHYMETRA ROOT ROT

In 2018, IBCPS staff tried to complete a survey across the region. Only 7 growers agreed to have samples taken from their farms while IBCPS were RSD sampling.

Unfortunately due to weather conditions and other issue out of our control some nominated blocks or farms were not sampled. IBCPS endeavour to complete these missed samples in 2019. For those who did not get involved, we're still looking for more samples to be completed in 2019.

***Growers of interest would have some of the following criteria:***

- ◆ Varieties: Q200, Q208, KQ228, Q250, Q252, Q256,
- ◆ Crop ages from PI to 3R
- ◆ Typically more predominant in wetter, low lying soils and lighter soils.
- ◆ If you have and/or are finding stool tipping on your farm
- ◆ Samples cost **\$55 incl GST / sample**

Knowing what your Pachymetra levels are around your farm is an essential step to assist in the selection of varieties to plant in the coming year. The critical value for potential yield loss from Pachymetra is 50,000 spore count and above. Growers are therefore urged to complete Pachymetra soil samples prior to planting. This can be completed in conjunction with pre-planting nutrient sampling. Blocks where Pachymetra levels are low, varieties with either a resistant or intermediate level can be selected.

*If you are interested in getting involved in the Pachymetra survey, please contact IBCPS extension staff to arrange sampling.*

### CANEGRUBS

Reported Canegrub damage in 2018 was very low. There was quite a significant first flight in the red soil country in December after the first round of rainfall. Imidacloprid is still the main insecticide used for grub control. *Suscon Maxi Intel* is a product slowly being adopted and is a good option as a slow release insecticide providing up to 3-4 years protection from plant cane. In any case, IBCPS recommend growers implement an Integrated Pest Management Program if they have previously or are currently experiencing a grub problem. IBCPS extension staff can assist with this process.

### WALLABIES and COCKATOOS

Both Native pests have also played a minor role in the loss of cane over the 2018 season. Growers are only allowed to control wallabies and cockatoos once they have applied for a 'Recreational Wildlife Harvesting Licence' found on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website and more importantly have received approval.

Department of (DES) have indicated that if at a district CPS level correct practice can be followed under the new District Rat Baiting Permit, they will consider a blanket application from Productivity services for Wallabies or Cockatoos.—so let's work together and try do the right thing.

### WEED MANAGEMENT AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION GUIDE

IBCPS has updated a new version of the IBCPS "Northern Region Weed and Pest Management and Pricing Guide" along with the "Herbicide Application Practical Guide" to release in 2019. These guides hold valuable information and handy hints on applications and chemical mixes. The guides can also be used for record keeping purposes and suggested mixes are numbered, as long as growers reference the documents in their records.

If you wish to complete a spray management plan for the coming year, please bring your guide in and work through a strategy for your farms with your IBCPS Extension Officer.

Please find a copy of these guides with your IBCPS 'Season in a Snapshot' Magazine.

## RATS

Again in 2018 we saw some significant rat damage occur to blocks of cane and in most cases are the sole cause of overall loss in productivity of a crop. Growers are allowed to bait rats, however there are conditions that must be followed for baiting to occur.

The two species of native rat, the ground rat (*Rattus sordidus*) and the climbing rat (*Melomys burtoni*) are native grassland animals and are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and their control is subject to the Queensland Government issuing a Damage Mitigation Permit.

Several changes have been made to both the Aerial Rat Baiting Permit and the Ground Baiting Permit in the last 12 months. A detailed outline of these changes is below.

### Aerial Rat Baiting Permit

In 2017 the cane growing regions of Herbert and Mackay were permitted to aerial apply rat bait under strict permit guidelines.

CPS throughout QLD wanted to make this available to all of our growers. In 2018 a teleconference was held between all CPS's in QLD and all organisations agreed to go ahead with the permit.

The APVMA approved this permit as an industry wide aerial baiting permit for control of Australian Native Ground Rats in lodged cane only. The permit is an extension from the Mackay and Herbert permit and is valid until the 31/03/2022.

### Aerial Baiting Permit Guidelines:

- ◆ Product to be used: RATTOFF™ Zinc Phosphide bait sachets or; ZP Rat Bait sachets
- ◆ Rate to be applied: 100 sachets/ha
- ◆ Crop situation: Lodged sugarcane crops, not accessible ground distribution methods (provide evidence).



*What is lodged cane?*

*'Cane crops that are lodged following heavy rains and/or high wind events that are not accessible by ground to distribute sachet baits.'*

- ◆ No more than 10,000 hectares is to be baited across QLD cane growing areas in a calendar year.
- ◆ Application method: helicopter or UAV only. Not a fixed-winged aircraft.
- ◆ Number of applications: 2 aerial applications per production season, with a minimum of 31 days between consecutive treatments.
- ◆ Withholding period:
  - ⇒ Harvest: DO NOT harvest for 14 days after

application

- ⇒ Grazing: DO NOT graze or cut for stock food for 14 days after application.

### Ground Baiting Permit Guidelines:

Growers baiting rats must keep a record and provide this information to IBCPS.

The process that must be followed is:

- ◆ Only registered baits may be used. There are three baits registered for use in sugarcane. These are: **Ratoff, Racumen and a new product ZP Rat Bait.**
- ◆ Baiting can only occur between **1 October and 30 June (ideal time to bait!)**
- ◆ A record must be kept before baiting commences.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP OUR RAIT BAITING PERMIT??**

### Information required - PLEASE PROVIDE TO IBCPS:

- ◆ Date commenced and date completed
- ◆ Area baited
- ◆ Product used – Ratoff, Racumen or ZP Baits
- ◆ Species being targeted – Ground Rat or Climbing Rat or both
- ◆ Name and farm number

Provide this record to IBCPS either in person, by phone, fax or email.

Rat Baiting Damage Mitigation Permits as of 2018, are held at a DISTRICT level. Therefore IBCPS hold the permit and ALL IBCPS growers are responsible to report baiting records to IBCPS. If this process is not followed, the District Permit can and will be revoked. Growers will then need to apply for individual permits. IBCPS DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THE PERMIT, so please cooperate and provide monthly information to the company. Record keeping forms are attached to this document or can be found at an IBCPS office or website.

### Technical Advise

Like any pest or weed problem, there is no single control measure that will provide a total solution for rodent infestations in crop.

Using an IPM strategy has proven to be the most effective way to manage rat numbers to prevent serious crop damage.

### IPM options:

- ⇒ Weed control in crop and adjacent to crops
- ⇒ Harbourage removal or management (revegetation and spray options to be considered)
- ⇒ Encouragement of natural predators
- ⇒ Baiting - Start in OCTOBER through to APRIL!



# INTERGRATED FERAL PIG MANAGEMENT PLAN

## IBCPS FERAL PIG PROGRAM (FPP) UPDATE

Before going into detail, South Johnstone Mill growers should be proud of the efforts they have made in conjunction with IBCPS and local council. Our growers have set the bar for all other landholders, mill areas and council areas to run a Integrated Feral Pig Program.

The IBCPS Program is now well and truly into its second year running. To date we have had 56 sites actively operating from Fishery Falls to Silkwood. These sites run as either a trapping method, 1080 baiting method or a combination of both depending on the situation. The farms involved over the last 18 months are either continuing their management plan on their own, have stopped due to lack of pigs, are continuously baiting/trapping in conjunction with IBCPS or are fresh to the program.

Although this program has been very successful over the last 12 months, growers are reminded to not become content with their situation. Feral Pig management, just like weeds, diseases and other pest animals, is a continuous effort and the situation should be monitored closely and kept under control at all times.

IBCPS look forward to continuing this program and working closely with our effected growers into the future. If you're unsure what to do next on your farm, don't hesitate to give Rick a call for a farm visit and to start a management plan for you.

### Pest Survey Figures - provided by IBCPS growers

YEAR	% of Mill Area Surveyed (ha)	ESTIMATED LOSS IN INCOME (\$)
2016 Season	36%	\$1,475,280
2017 Season	42%	\$1,498,130
2018 Season	72%	\$1,318,199

*Figures are based on a district average CCS and payment price*

## CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL (CCRC) INTERAGTED FERAL PIG PROGRAM

One of the biggest achievements in our cane growing area in 2018 is the successful application for government funding.

The purpose of this project is to assist with the ongoing management of feral pigs in banana growing areas in order to reduce the risk of spreading Panama TR4.

The project aims to increase participation in feral pig control activities across all tenures; promote responsible land

management in CCRC LGA and beyond; reduce landholder reliance on external parties for managing pigs; and decrease impacts on all sectors regarding pigs. This may also additionally reduce risk of transmission of Panama disease TR4 from pig movement and trespassing.

### What is available to CCRC growers:

- ◆ Banana collection is readily available from the IBCPS SJ depot. A cold room has been set up to allow for banana availability all year round.
- ◆ Trap collection : CCRC have allowed for IBCPS to run the distribution of council traps from our offices.
- ◆ Cameras ; distributed through IBCPS.

## CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL (CRC) FERAL PIG PROGRAM

As of 04/05/2018, CRC approved the use of 1080 in the council district. Prior to this approval no policy or procedure was in place under the CRC guidelines that allowed 1080 baiting to occur. IBCPS wanted to make the same program methods available to all of our growers and therefore with the help of the Cairns Region Canegrowers the approval of 1080 baiting was successfully passed and growers now have the ability to receive the same baiting service from CRC. For further information on what is available to assist with pests and weeds as a CRC landholder contact Rick Ericson (IBCPS

### ***A word from your Pest Management Officer....***

After trialling a few farms at the start of the program, baiting was found to be the most effective and efficient method over trapping or dogging. After baiting has been completed on a property, these secondary methods are used as a follow up plan. A lot of growers started the program doubtful of the methods and plans in place. Once involved in the program, growers could see the effort put in and saw the results for themselves. This has led to a change in attitudes and growers continuing on with their program. Some growers throughout the region are now actively baiting and trapping after the assistance of the program; this includes investing in their own cameras and monitoring the sites, free feeding with the completion of trapping or baiting the pests. Word of mouth, education and positive results from the program have been the best advertisement for the current eradication program.

I look forward to working with more growers in the new year.



*IBCPS Pest Management Officer, Rick Ericson.*

# IBCPS CHEMICAL SHOPS AND UPDATES

## NUFARM UPDATE

IBCPS would like to inform growers of the resignation of Nufarm rep Brian Chisnall. Many growers across our area would be familiar with Brian who has been a rep for Nufarm and previously Crop Care for quite some time. IBCPS would like to wish Brian all the best in the future.

At this stage there has been no local replacement and Mark Rantucci will continue until the position has been filled.

## PLANTING FUNGICIDE INFORMATION MORNING

In May this year IBCPS held a Fungicide Information session for growers. The session was organised to inform growers about the impending removal of Shirtan from the market, and to offer growers an understanding of the replacement products available through Nufarm such as Sinker.

Shirtan is expected to slowly phase out through the upcoming season, the price is expected to rise as the product active becomes harder to obtain.

Sinker is the main option now available to growers, with its performances in trails proving it is a great equal and sometimes superior alternative to Shirtan moving forward

## CHANGES TO 2,4-D PRODUCT LABELS

In October 2018 APVMA has implemented changes to the usage of 2,4-D formulations. There are now updated labels with new restrictions in regards to nozzles required to be used changing from Coarse to Very Coarse, as well as the implementation of downwind buffer zones in regards to vegetation and aquatic areas. These updated labels came into effect on the 1st of October 2018. All growers would have now been emailed copies of the new updated labels for all Nufarm Products IBCPS sell, if you have not received any please inform us and we can have a copy emailed to you.

## END OF FINANCIAL YEAR TRADE NIGHT EXPO

At the End of June IBCPS held an End of Financial Year Walk and Talk Trade Night, with support from various Industry bodies including, Nufarm, SRA, Local Council and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who had set up displays and demonstrations ranging from Nozzle demonstrations and Drone Technology to Pig Eradication Programs and Chemical Product information and projects.

The event was a great success with around 40 growers attending the night and taking the opportunity to get a bargain on the special prices IBCPS had for the event.

IBCPS would like to thank everyone for their support of the event and look forward to next year's being just as successful.

## GIFT VOUCHERS and LOYALTY CARDS

IBCPS now offer Gift Vouchers to buy up to the value of \$250. If you're looking for a gift for grandad or dad, pop in and get him a voucher. You don't have to purchase just chemical, there's a range of products available to order from Croplands.

IBCPS also offers customer loyalty cards which come with discounts at both the 5th and 10th purchase over \$250.



2018 IBCPS EOFY Walk and Trade Night; Innisfail Show Grounds.

## A word from your IBCPS Chemical Sales Officer....

It's been another busy 12 months here at IBCPS. I've learnt a lot in the last year through many different avenues from going out and attending grower field days, extension workshops and also from visiting grower farms. I hope to continue attending as many of these events as possible and continue to build my knowledge base to help not only myself but growers as well.

It was also really great to see the support IBCPS received with our Grower Walk and Talk Trade night and End of Financial Year sales. This is an event I look forwards to continuing to build on into the future.

Once again I look forward to another year at IBCPS and Thank you for your Support in 2018.

*IBCPS Chemical Salesman,  
Joshua Brook. Providing  
friendly service and advice*



## CANE PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVES in 2018

### **GROWER SHED MEETINGS:**

IBCPS held three shed meetings across the IBCPS area during March.

Attendance to these meetings saw approx. 160 IBCPS growers at one of the meetings. The shed meetings were an opportunity to review varietal data from the 2017 season, discuss local issues and of course host the 2018 RSD Roadshow with special guest presenter Dr Rob Magarey and Dr Anthony Young.

Meetings were held at;

- ◆ The Silkwood Gun Club, Silkwood
- ◆ The Wangan Hall, Wangan
- ◆ The Babinda RSL Hall, Babinda

A diverse range of speakers presented at each of these locations. The speakers and topics covered were:

- ◆ Varieties for the Future (Felicity Aitken)
- ◆ Canegrowers Updates (Deb Telford)
- ◆ Wet Tropics RSD Road show ( WTCPS, Rob Magarey, Anthony Young)
- ◆ Feral Pigs in our Region (CCRC, CRC, NPWS)
- ◆ IBCPS General Updates (Bianca Spannagle)

### **GROWER WALK & TALK EVENTS:**

- ◆ Tissue Culture Bus Trip (IBCPS, Mission Beach Foliage, TCPSL)
- ◆ Planting Fungicides Information Morning (IBCPS, Brian Chisnall and Nick Matthews, Nufarm)
- ◆ End of Financial Year Trade Night (IBCPS, Nufarm, SRA, CCRC, NPWS)
- ◆ Aerial and Ground Baiting Grower and Reseller Update (IBCPS)
- ◆ Six Easy Steps Courses (Gavin Rodman, SRA)
- ◆ Protecting our Chemicals (Belinda Belling, SRA)
- ◆ Walking the Landscape, Innisfail (WTMIP)
- ◆ Innisfail Agriculture Day (Canegrowers Innisfail)
- ◆ Soil Health Workshops, Innisfail Canegrowers (Anthony Young and SRA)
- ◆ Extension Officers Variety ID Workshop (SRA Meringa)



*South Johnstone shed meeting, across all three shed meetings approx. 160 growers attended the update.*



*SRA Field Herbicide Walk. Emilie Folios— location at Miriwinni looking at the control of Guinea Grass using alternative methods and herbicide.*



*Harvest Festival display showing the public the varieties of canes that are grown in the Wet Tropics. 2018*



*Growers teaching Growers Bus Trip - Legumes and Fallow information day. Organised by Canegrowers Innisfail, Deb Telford and MSF Sugar, Michael Porta, 2018*

# IBCPS - FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2019

### IBCPS FACEBOOK PAGE and WEBSITE



IBCPS now has a FACEBOOK page. We also have a WEBSITE  
**www.ibcpsl.com**

You will find all IBCPS updates, industry articles, up and coming events and grower reminders.

### NEWSLETTERS & TEXT MESSAGES

IBCPS will no longer send out newsletters throughout the year. Any correspondence will be sent on a Friday via email or through the Canegrowers or MSF Sugar organisations weekly emails. Growers will receive the 'Season in a Snapshot' booklet via the post.

All other updates will be sent via text message, email or on the Facebook page. Official notices will still be sent via post.

*Please make sure all of your contact details are up to date in order to receive this correspondence. If you do not wish to receive digital correspondence; please inform company secretary Pauline Diprose; 4064 3300.*

### IBCPS CORE DUTIES & SERVICES ON OFFER TO OUR GROWERS

- ◆ Provide one on one advice and extension with growers on their farm.
- ◆ Provide various feedback and suggestions using individual farm data, commercial and trial data and MSF Sugar Variety by Soil Type Report.
- ◆ Provide extension and sampling for pests and diseases. Conduct yearly Plant Source Inspection.
- ◆ Run four Approved Clean Seed plots, provide growers with a Tissue Culture planter, complete Tissue Culture orders for growers and provide a Hot Water Tank Treatment service.
- ◆ Provide simple soil test kits, send samples to accredited laboratories for analysis and provide growers with a nutrient recommendation based on 6 Easy Steps.
- ◆ Provide growers with weed ID and herbicide recommendations. Assist with record keeping.
- ◆ Complete dumpy level block analysis and recommendations.
- ◆ Complete 12 Board Reports, Fortnightly reports and grower updates throughout the year. Plus the new *Season in a Snapshot Annual Report*.
- ◆ Assist SRA and any other project bodies with any projects and grower events occurring locally.
- ◆ Attend training and workshops hosted by a variety of industry organisations.
- ◆ Run field days, shed meetings, seminars and bus trips to inform growers.

- ◆ Promote and support Smartcane BMP.

### Equipment Available to IBCPS Growers

This year IBCPS will have the following equipment available for use:

- ◆ Plant trailers
- ◆ Billet cages for heat treatment of cane
- ◆ Tissue culture planter
- ◆ Soil testing kits

All equipment borrowed from IBCPS must be logged and signed off by the grower and IBCPS staff on date taken and date returned. Call or complete a form in advance to ensure the equipment is at one of the depots.

Contact Bianca Spannagle for further information.

### What's Ahead in 2019?

#### GROWER SHED MEETINGS—look for our flyer!

- ◆ **The Silkwood Gun Club, Silkwood**  
*Thursday 7th March, 7am –10pm*
- ◆ **The Wangan Hall, Wangan**  
*Thursday 7th March, 2pm– 5pm*
- ◆ **The Babinda RSL Hall, Babinda**  
*Friday 8th March, 7am –10am*

#### GROWER WALK & TALK EVENTS:

- ◆ **Grower Updates (SRA)**  
*Tully, 3rd April, 2019 (more details TBA)*  
*Cairns, 4th April, 2019 (more details TBA)*
- ◆ **Suscon Maxi Intel Contractor Stewardship Course**  
*April, 2019 (more details TBA)*

#### 2019 IBCPS Annual General Meeting

On the 28th March, 2019 IBCPS will be holding their AGM at the Innisfail Canegrowers venue. IBCPS staff and board encourage growers to attend and have their say. We value your feedback and use the AGM as an opportunity hear opinions and respond.

#### 2018 SEASON AWARDS NIGHT:

The 2018 Season Productivity Awards Night will again be held at **Warrina Lakes on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**, commencing at **5.30pm for a 6pm sharp start**. Meals will be provided by local restaurant Roscoe's pizza and pasta .

As always the awards night acknowledges outstanding productivity and celebrates our local sugar industry. It is an excellent opportunity for you to show your support, network with local growers, contractors and industry representatives, catch up with your mates and share some laughs. We look forward to seeing you all there again!

## SPOT YOURSELF AT AN EVENT IN 2018



## SPOT YOURSELF AT AN EVENT IN 2018





INNISFAIL BABINDA CANE  
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES



# CHEAP AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL

## NEW TRADING HOURS



Enquire within to  
hear about **BULK BUY**  
purchases



**CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

### **BABINDA DEPOT**

**7AM - 10.30AM**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

South Johnstone Office

Tel: 4064 3300

Japoon Rd, South Johnstone

Babinda Office

Tel: 4067 1266

156 Howard Kennedy Dr, Babinda

Admin E: [info@ibcps.com.au](mailto:info@ibcps.com.au)

PO Box 25

South Johnstone, QLD, 4859

### **SOUTH JOHNSTONE DEPOT**

**12PM - 3.30PM**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

Chemical Sales & Enquiries

Josh Brook

M: 0427 632 230

E: [Joshua.Brook@ibcps.com.au](mailto:Joshua.Brook@ibcps.com.au)

(All chemical sales & enquiries referred to Josh)

Extension Officer

Bianca Spannagle

M: 0428 774 922

E: [Bianca.Spannagle@ibcps.com.au](mailto:Bianca.Spannagle@ibcps.com.au)

(All extension enquiries to be refer to Bianca)



**FREE DELIVERY ON ALL ORDERS**  
**Must work in with Salesperson**



**ALL CUSTOMERS WELCOME INCLUDING GENERAL PUBLIC**

**Bianca Spannagle**  
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**Josh Brook**  
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South Johnstone QLD 4859



**Thankyou to all those who have participated and contributed to the  
INNISFAIL BABINDA SUGAR INDUSTRY REPORT 2018**



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