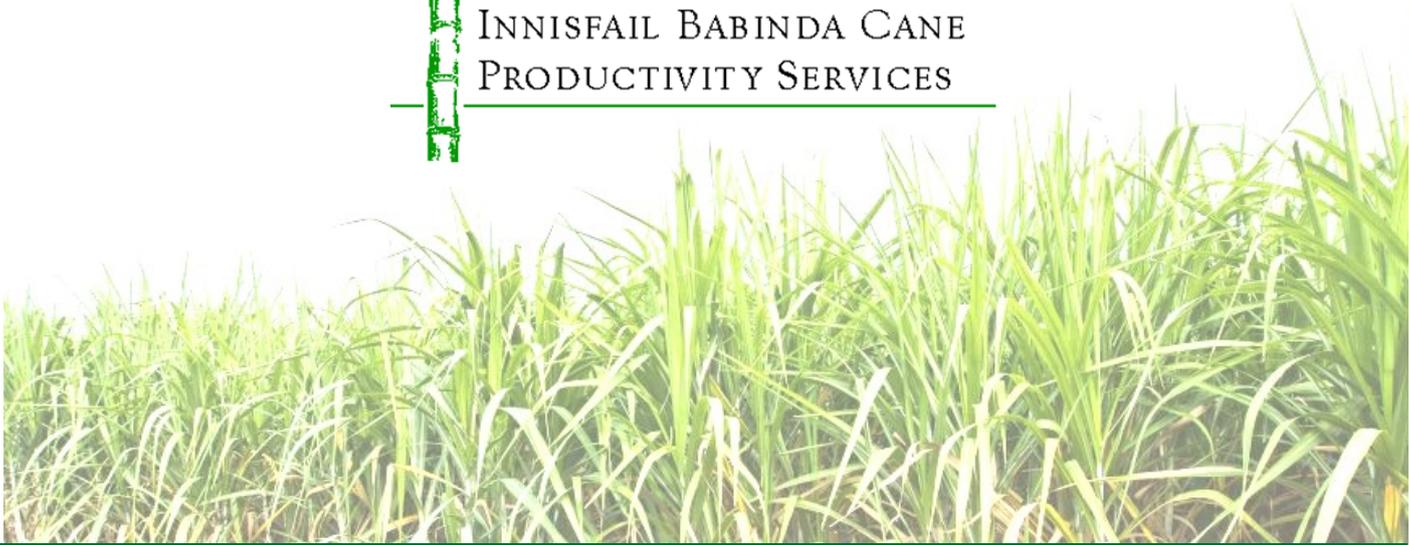




INNISFAIL BABINDA CANE
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES



INNISFAIL BABINDA
'SEASON IN A SNAPSHOT'
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



IBCPS 2016 Season Cane Productivity Awards Night, 2017



Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Ltd is a not-for-profit company and funded by a levee fee paid by our local growers. 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 Innisfail Babinda districts, in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner for both our growers and industry .

THE INNISFAIL BABINDA '2017 SEASON IN A SNAPSHOT' ANNUAL REPORT

This report has been put together to reflect and showcase our local industry in the year of 2017. This is not a replacement of the previous Productivity Reports , MSF will continue to produce the main Productivity Report but IBCPS will be releasing an annual report looking at our local Innisfail Babinda Cane farming districts and what went on for the previous year of 2017. 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 hope you enjoy this report.



2015-2017 Innisfail Babinda Cane Productivity Services Board of Directors

*Left to Right: John Casale, Raymond Vacarioli, Chairman Wayne Gattera, Ken Hall, Paul Cecchi and Alf Strano.
Apologies : Deputy Chairman Mick Ward, the late Charlie Zappala and Andrew Wood.*

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IBCPS Director , the late Charlie Zappala with his zone award at the IBCPS 2016 Season Cane Productivity Awards Night, 2017

A word from your manager....

It is my pleasure to present our growers with the first IBCPS 2017 Annual Report, 'Season in a Snapshot', based on the activities and achievements of our local industry over the last 12 months.

2017 was mostly favourable with near perfect planting and harvesting conditions only being hampered slightly with an early wet start to harvesting. Planting was generally uninterrupted, allowing the majority of growers to finish in good time, around late September.

Although another late finish to the year, 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.

I believe because of the hard work, co-operation and unity as an industry we are able to achieve workable goals accompanied with profitable and sustainable outcomes for our region and its members.

I personally aim to fulfill our growers needs and wants from the business and look forward to continuing the efforts in response to grower feedback.

On behalf of the IBCPS staff and board we would like to thank you, our valued grower members, for your continual support and contributions throughout the 2017 season. We wish you all the best in the cane season ahead.

Bianca Spannagle

IBCPS Manager and Productivity Extension Officer



IBCPSL 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

After another challenging finish in 2016, the year of 2017 had the local industry worried about the crop ahead. Although a wet finish was had at the end of the 2016 crush, the beginning of 2017 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 Innisfail Babinda Sugar industry completed an average crush for the season of 2017 with around 1.8 million tonnes crushed. This equates to a district mill average of 79 TCH, with the overall seasonal CCS up from 2016, to 12.08. 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.

The season got going for the South Johnstone milling area on the 13th June 2017 and continued through until completion on the 10th December 2017.

IBCPS Staff and Board for 2016-2017

IBCPS saw the appointment of Bianca Spannagle as the new Manager for IBCPS . Bianca has been with IBCPS for just over 2 years now and is looking forward to increasing and improving the level of core business our growers receive.

IBCPS itself saw some changes to shop hours and a general restructure of the business. IBCPS welcomed three new staff to the team, Joshua Brook (Chemical), Rick Ericson (Feral Pig Management Officer) and Pauline Diprose (Company Secretary).

Bill Brand retired with IBCPS July 2017 after 43 years of quality service to Babinda and surrounding area growers. Although Bill has completed full time employment with the company, he will continue casually during peak periods of the year as

needed. Bill's contribution was recognised at the 2017 Awards Night and he was presented with a gift of appreciation on behalf of the local industry.

IBCPS congratulate and thank Bill for his dedication to the company over the years and wish him and his family all the best.



Bill Brand accepting his gift from Chairman Wayne Gattera, for 43 years of service. 2017

Achievements for IBCPS in 2017....

As mentioned above, IBCPS saw some changes to the company over the last 12 months, with some small company milestones achieved.

- ⇒ The initiation of a 12 month Sustainable Feral Pig Program continuing into 2018 was successful. Rick Ericson was employed through both IBCPS and MSF Sugar to work directly with stakeholders to create sustainable eradication plans for individual IBCPS farmers.
- ⇒ Ordered approximately 13,300 tissue culture plants to growers for 2018 planting. IBCPS also invested in a tissue culture planter which will be available to growers in 2018.
- ⇒ Supported SRA, assisting to get our growers to field events and updates hosted by SRA.
- ⇒ Successfully ran three large grower shed meetings throughout the IBCPS region.
- ⇒ Successfully completed the first IBCPS Chemical workshop and trade night, run by Joshua Brook.
- ⇒ Became a partner in the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP).
- ⇒ Presented at the 2017 Sugar Tuesday, ASST conference.
- ⇒ Encouraged and informed high school students to take a career interest in our industry.

SHOWCASING OUR LOCAL INDUSTRY

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Zone 1	Zanetich J GG LA & JS
Zone 2	Lloyd WJ KE & MR
Zone 3	Stewart MJ & Mrs MT
Zone 4	Zappala CA & SA
Zone 5	Tirra PTY LTD
Zone 6	Angelini P Mrs E & Ms R
Zone 7	Riera C
Zone 8	Bilic GJ & m
Zone 9	Soper, WJ & Mrs D
Zone 10	Sendra J Mrs A & JJ
Zone 11	Lizzio FJ KD & MF
Highest Farm TCH	Reitano M R & Sons
Highest Farm CCS	Raciti A & Mrs A
Outstanding Grower	Angelini P Mrs E & Ms R
Harvest Group Award	Calcagno Harvesting (56)
BMP Award	Matthew Stewart
Young Grower Award	Steven Bonso
Innovative Grower	Stephen Calcagno
Industry Co-operator	SJ Mill Laboratory

2016/17 IBCPS CANE PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS NIGHT

Approximately 180 growers attended the 2016 Season Productivity Awards Night held at Warrina Lakes on Thursday, 25th May 2017.

Congratulations to the winners of each zone and category.

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

The 2017 Season Cane Productivity Awards Night, 2018 will be held on **Thursday 24th May 2018**. IBCPS look forward to seeing you all there again.



IBCPS Cane Productivity Awards Night, 2017

2017 INNISFAIL SHOW CANE DISPLAY COMPETITION

The 2017 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. Cowley grower Daniel Borg had a wonderful array of exhibits and won champion cane of the show with his Q251 being superior in weight and brix. The standard of the cane

displayed was outstanding and was 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.

VARIETY/CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Champion Show Cane	Borg D & M
Three Heaviest Sticks Q208	Borg D & M
Three Heaviest Sticks Q200	Borg D & M
Three Heaviest Sticks Q250	Speziali Farming
Three Heaviest Sticks Q251	Borg D & M
Three Heaviest Sticks Q231	Fichera FS & KM
Three Heaviest Sticks Q183	Tirra PTY LTD
Three Heaviest Sticks Minor	Vicarioli RAL & RI

2017 BABINDA HARVEST FESTIVAL CANE

Unfortunately there were only five growers who entered for the 2017 display. If growers would like to see this tradition continue, a lot more support from growers is needed in the future. Thankyou to those who did participate.

Special thanks to our sponsors for donating terrific prizes this year:

MSF Sugar, QSL, Miriwinni Lime, S & NI Marsh, Nufarm and Mellick Centre. Another special thanks to those who gave up their time to help set up the display: **Bill Brand and the MSF staff.**

VARIETY/CATEGORY	RECIPIENT
Q200	Sacchetti AG & SJ
Q208	Lloyd WJ KE & MR
Q250	Sacchetti AG & SJ
Q240	Wilkins MJ RR & RJ
Other/Minors	Stewart M & Mrs M
Over All Runner-Up	Lloyd WJ KE & MR
Over All Grand Champion	Sacchetti AG & SJ

CROP & VARIETY PERFORMANCE 2016

Varietal performance for 2017, saw the overall CCS trend start off higher than the previous year, due to an average wet season and reasonably dry first few months of the crushing season. These drier conditions at Christmas time caused the majority of varieties to remain in a dormant state. Due to these conditions, little to no flowering occurred for flowering varieties. In comparison to the 2016 season where the estimate continued to climb, tonnes of cane decreased for growers in 2017 as we moved into the month of December, especially once growers started moving into their later cut from 2016. As mentioned previously in this report, the Relative CCS finished on 12.03 respectively, with an average of

79 TCH. Growing conditions for some of our newer varieties; Q253, Q252, Q250 and Q240 were optimal for the performance of that variety and 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 surrounding 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.

2018 RELEASE VARIETIES

(Available for distribution in IBCPS plots this year)

SRA1 (QN86-2139 x QC90-289)

Low tonnes cane : Equal to high CCS

SRA1 has come from the Northern Breeding Program is resistant to both Brown Rust and Smut, but is intermediate to Pachymetra, Leaf Scald and Red Rot, therefore if planting this variety, block rotation with Pachymetra resistant varieties is suggested. This variety does show promising figures for sugar performance.

SRA3 (QN86-2214 x Q200)

High tonnes cane : Lower CCS

SRA3 has come from the Northern Breeding Program, where it was known as QN02-777. SRA3 is resistant to Brown Rust and Red Rot, but is intermediate with Leaf Scald, Smut and Pachymetra. Again if planting this variety block rotation with Pachymetra resistant varieties is suggested. Intermediate to susceptible to smut.

SRA10 (QN92-1659 x QN91-3898)

Equal tonnes cane : High CCS

SRA10 has come from the Northern Breeding Program and is resistant to Leaf Scald but is intermediate to Smut and Pachymetra, therefore if planting this variety, block rotation with Pachymetra resistant varieties is suggested.

PROMISING VARIETIES FOR THE FUTURE

QS06-9119 (QS91-7008 x Q200)

This variety was MaxProp at 2017 VAC for possible release in 2018. 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 potential variety is intermediate to Smut and Pachymetra and resistant to Leaf Scald.

QS06-8817 (QN97-2328 x QN96-1162)

This variety was MaxProp at 2017 VAC for possible release in 2018. 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.

Why the QS instead of QN number?

QS06-SmutBuster series were originally Northern-selected crosses, germinated in Meringa, and then transported to Bundaberg in October 2006 as part of the first SmutBuster testing program.

Any possible released MaxProp varieties will be discussed at the Variety Selection Committee Meeting held in May 2018.

NEW VARIETY RECOMMENDATIONS & VARIETY RELEASE PROCESS

Regional Variety Committees (RVC) have replaced Variety Approval Committees (VAC) in line with changes to the Queensland biosecurity legislation. With membership drawn from growers, millers and productivity service groups specific to the region, the RVCs will continue to be responsible for variety release decisions. SRA supports these groups with secretariat support and the provision of technical information to assist the committee making decisions on particular varieties.

RVCs are composed of voting and non-voting members to ensure transparency in the decision making process.

The Northern RVC (Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 1) voting membership consists of one grower, miller and productivity services representative from each of the following areas; Mossman, Mulgrave, Innisfail/Babinda, Tully and Tablelands. The Northern RVC requires a majority vote for progression of a variety through the SRA program and a majority vote for the release of a variety.

HOW CLEAN IS YOUR PLANTING MATERIAL

PLANT SOURCE INSPECTIONS (PSI)

Every year IBCPS completes plant source inspections for growers throughout the IBCPS region. PSI are a vital part of farm planning to ensure you are using clean material on your farm. Utilising clean material is a key way to increasing productivity and profitability for your business.

There were a few little hiccups during the PSI season in 2017 and a formal notice and apology was sent out to our growers earlier this year. IBCPS look forward to working closer with our growers and having a smoother start to the 2018 pre-planting season.

Process for arranging inspection bookings :

- An **IBCPS Plant Inspection Appointment Form** must be completed prior to having plants sampled. Forms must be **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 20TH APRIL 2018**.
- If forms are not handed in by this date or a grower does not complete a form, an inspection and RSD ELISA sampling will not be prioritized over growers who have handed in forms.
- 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.
- Please nominate more than your original block choices. Have all possible plant sources listed to ensure material is inspected in a timely fashion, especially if initial material selection returns a positive result.

IBCPS APPROVED CLEAN SEED PLOTS

IBCPS have clean seed cane distribution plots throughout the districts including Kurrimine-Hobsons Plot, Martyville Plot, Bartle Frere Plot and Babinda Central Plot. Both northern plots were almost cleaned out for both new and old varieties in 2017. Unfortunately the southern plots were a lot quieter with only a small amount of tonnes sold. *In total we sold 76.5 tonnes of clean seed cane across all plots, out of a potential 380 tonnes.* This is quite a poor uptake of clean seed and all plots will be reviewed in 2018. The goal for Approved Clean Seed uptake in 2018, is to reach 200 tonnes of material distributed to our growers.

The practice of collecting clean seed material from a CPS plot is unquestionably the only way to achieve a disease free farm, along with the benefits of improved productivity and profitability.

Process to order Clean Seed from Plots:

- An **IBCPS Approved Clean Seed Order Form** must be completed prior to opening of plots. Forms must be

RETURNED BY FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018.

- **Seed allocation on older varieties** will be calculated based on requests for material on order forms. Older variety allocation will work on a first in best dressed basis for both whole stick and billet material.
- **Seed allocation for new release varieties** will remain the same, calculated on a quota basis, as per previous years.
- If forms are not handed in by this date, any grower asking for material after this date will not be guaranteed clean seed, so please complete the order form.
- At no time should a grower be on the plot sites without an IBCPS staff member notified and present.
- Please contact Bianca Spannagle for further information on plots in 2018 and attend 2018 shed meetings for a more detailed update.

HOT WATER TREATMENT (HWT)

IBCPS treated just over 11 tonnes of whole stick and billet cane in 2017. A total of 2 out of 9 treatments unfortunately failed; IBCPS do bank on 2 fails per year. IBCPS is offering two services for heat treatment:

1. Whole stick treatment
2. Billet treatment

Process to book in for Hot Water Treatments:

- An **IBCPS HOT WATER TREATMENT App Form** must be completed and **RETURNED BY FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018**.
- A week must be selected on the form to ensure your treatment is booked in.
- Tanks will only be switched on during mill start-up and mill finish. (Usually between July - October)
- You may also request a copy of the temperature data collected throughout your canes treatment.

TISSUE CULTURE (TC)

Tissue culture is a relatively new practice starting to be utilised by growers for clean material. TC 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(2019): 1st July, 2018**
 - **Spring Planting(2019): 15th November, 2018**

IBCPS are pleased to announce the investment of a TC planter readily available to our growers in the new year. Growers also placed a total order of 13,400 seedling for 2018 planting. This equates to a further 67 tonnes of clean material distributed next year. Please contact Bianca Spannagle for information.

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.

Every one 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.

Other Cane Productivity Services have stressed that if a piece of machinery turns up without an inspection certificate, they will send a cleaning bill back to the sender.

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.**
- Sender 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, sender will be supplied with the correct paperwork.

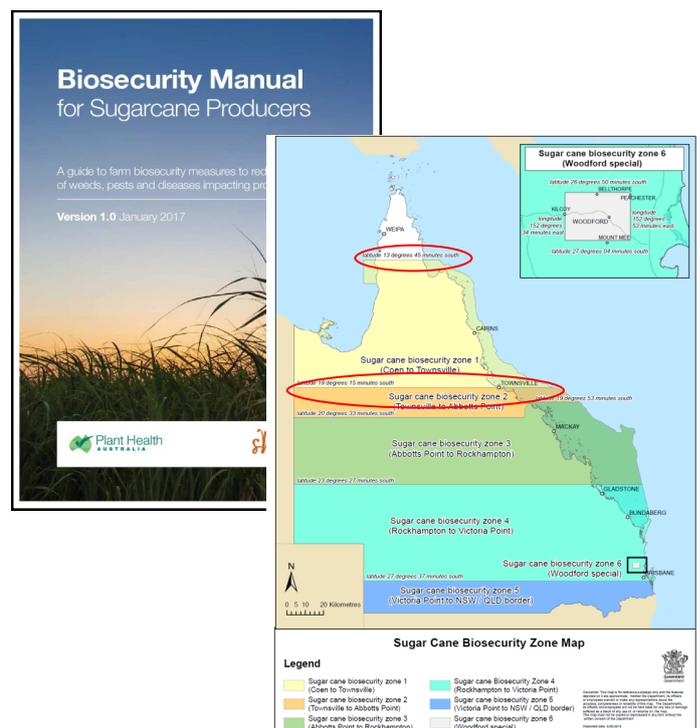
Cane regions adjoining us have some nasty diseases and weeds which we certainly do not want in this district.

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!



WEED MANAGEMENT, PESTS & DISEASES

RATOON STUNTING DISEASE (RSD)

RSD Plant Source Inspection (PSI) results revealed alarming numbers of positive samples. PSI's in 2017 covered 52% of the IBCPS area (ha under cane) and out of that 16% of samples were positive for RSD. This is only plant material not old ratoon. Ideally a CPS area would aim for 5% infection or lower.

The best way to manage RSD in our area is to continue to obtain Approved Clean Seed from plots every year, continue the practice of heat treating cane for following years, especially in older varieties such as Q208 and Q200, avoid placing clean material into replant blocks and sterilise ALL equipment and machinery used on farm that has direct contact with stools or sticks of cane.



RSD Wet Tropics Campaign...

Wet Tropics CPS (Tully to Mossman) are all addressing this issue and are working 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 will occur throughout the Wet Tropics from the 12th-16th March 2018. IBCPS will host the Road Show on the 14th and 15th March during grower shed meetings.

YELLOW CANOPY SYNDROME (YCS)

YCS in 2017 was not of any real concern to the mill area. There were several possible cases of YCS but nothing confirmed. To date IBCPS has received a number of calls from growers with suspected YCS symptoms in varieties such as Q247, Q250, Q251. Samples have been collected and sent to SRA at selected sites which have displayed the best symptoms of YCS. IBCPS along with SRA will continue to monitor the situation on those selected sites.

SRA have released several YCS updates throughout the year, along with an update from Dr Frikkie Botha at the 2017 SRA Grower Forums. 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 adoption officer (Gavin Rodman) or IBCPS extension staff.



A case of suspected YCS in the Cowley area, 2017

CHLOROTIC STREAK DISEASE (CSD)

SRA made progress with Chlorotic Streak in 2016 –17, with the cause of the disease being identified. CSD has now been identified as a microscopic organism that is a type of protozoan. SRA are continuing their studies in an attempt to find an analysis for extension teams to send to laboratories much the same as we do now with ELISA samples.

PACHYMETRA ROOT ROT

Pachymetra is a soil fungal disease which was discovered in the 1980's. Pachymetra was last surveyed in the IBCPS area in 1998 and at that time the small amount of sampled sites showed some concerning results. IBCPS is working in with SRA over the next two years to complete a Pachymetra survey for the IBCPS Region.

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

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.

Resistant	Intermediate	Intermediate-susceptible
Q183 ^o , Q219 ^o , Q231 ^o , Q238 ^o , Q241 ^o , Q242 ^o , Q245 ^o , Q247 ^o , Q251 ^o , Q253 ^o , SRA1 ^o , SRA6	Q200 ^o , Q208 ^o , KQ228 ^o , Q232 ^o , Q240 ^o , Q249 ^o , Q250 ^o , SRA7	Q237 ^o , SRA3 ^o

List of Pachymetra rated varieties from the Northern Variety list.

Pachymetra and Nematode Sample Request Form, to be handed to IBCPS extension staff along with your collected sample. Form can be found on the SRA website or collect one from and IBCPS office.

RATS

During 2017 we saw some significant rat damage occur to blocks of cane. Rats cause damage to sugarcane 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.

An industry-wide permit is currently issued and reviewed every three years. This avoids the necessity of individual growers applying for individual permits.

Growers baiting rats must keep a record and provide this information to their local Cane Productivity Board and their local Canegrowers office.

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.

Information required:

- ◆ **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 your local Cane Productivity Service board in person, by phone, fax or email.

If this process is not followed, there is a risk that the Industry-wide Damage Mitigation Permit currently held by CANEGROWERS will not be renewed and growers will need to get individual Damage Mitigation Permits to do any baiting for rats.

Record keeping forms and resources are available through Smartcane BMP and your local Cane Productivity Board.

More recently, The Australian Government has approved a permit to allow for minor use of Agvet Chemical Products, for the control of Australian Native Ground Rats and Climbing Rats in *lodged or standover sugarcane crop ONLY*. The permit **ONLY APPLIES** to sugarcane farms located within the **Mackay and Herbert growing regions**.

SRA are working on extending this permit further north into the Wet Tropics CPS districts.

FERAL PIGS

Over the last year pigs have become quite an issue for growers in our area. The year of 2017 proved to be a difficult one, with growers receiving large amounts of crop damage due to pigs; 2018 is not looking much better. IBCPS has conducted a detailed survey with growers in 2016-17 and data shows an overwhelming amount of cane and dollars are being lost from industry, due to this pest.

Some 14,212 hectares were assessed (equating to 36 % of the region). Data from pig damage and incidences was collected from all farms involved. The results – while only representative of a quarter of the growing region - painted a grim picture. Growers lost an estimated \$1.475 million to crop damage caused by feral pigs in the 2016 season. A report has been produced by IBCPS and can be collected at your IBCPS office or at shed meetings held in 2018.

It was only because of these alarming figures that IBCPS were able to employ a full time Feral Pig Management Officer and implement a sustainable program working directly with growers, appropriate stakeholders and landholders. Rick Ericson has now been with the company for 8 months and is proving to be an asset to the company and our growers. Local councils and National Parks are grateful to have an industry person on the ground educating and liaising with our growers to ensure a sustainable outcome is achieved. Growers will continue to be updated throughout 2018.

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 camera's 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. Currently running the successful Sustainable Feral Pig Program throughout the IBCPS area.

IBCPS CHEMICAL SHOPS AND UPDATES

NUFARM - CROPCARE UPDATE

The amalgamation of Cropcare and Nufarm occurred in 2017. Cropcare products will continue to be produced, growers should notice the Cropcare logo begin to phase out. IBCPS will continue to be the main stockist of NUFARM Sugarcane products.

SUSCON MAXI INTEL

suSCon maxi iNtel is a product that has been on the market for some time but over the years has become more popular due to the pressure in industry to reduce Imidachlorpid levels used on farm.

- Provides up to 3 years protection against greyback, negatoria, consobrina and Bundaberg Canegrub damage in sugarcane.
- Provides up to 4 years protection against Childers and southern one-year Canegrub damage in sugarcane.
- Controlled release of active, Imidachlorpid, resulting in the most prolonged control of target pest in sugarcane on the market.



SINKER

- Sinker fungicide from Nufarm controls primary infection of sugarcane smut and pineapple disease in sugarcane.
- The product was developed in conjunction with industry research body, BSES (SRA), SINKER contains flutriafol, highly soluble and systemic active ingredient in an easy to use formulation.

CONTROL SUGARCANE SMART AND PINEAPPLE DISEASE....

HOOK

LINE

AND.....



GROWER CHRISTMAS TRADE NIGHTS 2017

IBCPS held their first Christmas Trade Nights this year, with a turn out of around 40 growers across both nights. Local reps from Nufarm attended the nights with product updates and spray demonstrations, creating a productive, one on one experience for our growers.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the big spend prizes:

First prize - Sam Zappala (Esky donated by IBCPS and carton of beer donated by Nufarm)

Runner up - Tilly Spertino (carton of beer donated by Nufarm)

Thank you to the growers who attended and we look forward to hosting similar chemical events in the new year!



2017 IBCPS Christmas Trade Night, Babinda and South Johnstone Depots.

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

Starting out with IBCPS 6 months ago things were a little daunting for me, being new to the industry and sales of chemicals. However growers have been very welcoming and understanding and I feel myself learning a great deal from our growers about chemicals and the sugarcane industry in general.

I look forward to continuing my training and development with IBCPS and to continue working with growers for many years into the future.

IBCPS Chemical Salesman, Joshua Brook. Providing friendly service and advice along with a handy delivery service throughout your area.



CANE PRODUCTIVITY INITIATIVES

GROWER SHED MEETINGS:

IBCPS held three shed meetings across the IBCPS area during the months of February and March.

Attendance to these meetings saw approx. 160 growers at one of the meetings. Canegrowers Cairns allowed IBCPS to combine with their annual 'Growers Breakfast' in Babinda, and it turned out to be a very successful morning with great attendance from our northern growers. 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:

- ◆ SRA FertFinder (Gavin Rodman)
- ◆ Northern Variety Trials on Poor Soils (Michael Porta)
- ◆ Varieties for the Future (Felicity Aitken)
- ◆ Canegrowers Updates (Sarah Standen & Deb Telford)
- ◆ Project 25 Update (Sarah Standen, Aaron Davies and Cairns Region Canegrowers only)
- ◆ Feral Pigs in our Region (CCRC, CRC, NPWS, George Bugeja-GF Rural, IBCPS, Heliservices)
- ◆ IBCPS General Updates (Bianca Spannagle)

GROWER WALK & TALK EVENTS:

- ◆ Protecting our Chemicals (SRA Project—Belinda Billing)
- ◆ Growers Teaching Growers Bus Trip - Fallow Management (Deb Telford-Innisfail Canegrowers, Michael Porta-MSF Sugar, Australian Government)
- ◆ Ratoon Spray Out and Nozzle Demonstration (Nufarm and IBCPS)
- ◆ Christmas Chemical Trade Night (Nufarm and IBCPS)
- ◆ Control of Guinea Grass, Herbicide Demonstrations (SRA—Emilie Filios)
- ◆ 100 Years of SRA—Meringa Celebration (Hosted by SRA)



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



SRA Field Herbicide Walk. Emilie Filios— location at Miriwinni looking at the control of



Bill Brand, Bianca Spannagle and Richie Falla completing and judging the 2017 Harvest festival cane display and competition, 2017



Growers teaching Growers Bus Trip - Legumes and Fallow information day. Organised by Canegrowers Innisfail Deb Telford and MSF Sugar Michael Porta, 2017

IBCPS - FOCUSING ON OUR FUTURE

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2018

IBCPS FACEBOOK PAGE



IBCPS now has a FACEBOOK page. If you have not checked out the IBCPS Facebook page lately, please take the time to have a browse. You will find all IBCPS updates, industry articles, up and coming events and grower reminders.

NEWSLETTERS & TEXT MESSAGES

IBCPS will no longer be handing out newsletters throughout the year. Growers will receive the *Innisfail Babinda Sugar Industry Annual Report*—looking at the yearly season in a snapshot. Grower will receive a printed copy of this document with the MSF Sugar Productivity Reports each year.

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.

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 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 several Board Reports, Fortnightly reports and grower updates throughout the year. Plus the new *Innisfail Babinda Sugar Industry 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 test augers and sample bags

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 2018?

GROWER SHED MEETINGS—look for our flyer!

- ◆ **The Silkwood Gun Club, Silkwood**
Wednesday 14th March, 2pm –5pm
- ◆ **The Wangan Hall, Wangan**
Thursday 15th March, 7am– 10am
- ◆ **The Babinda RSL Hall, Babinda**
Thursday 15th March, 2pm –5pm

GROWER WALK & TALK EVENTS:

- ◆ **Tissue Culture into the Future –Grower Bus Trip**
16th February 2018, SJ Depot → Tully
- ◆ **Grower Updates (SRA)**
Innisfail, 2nd March 2018, Sugar Museum, 9am-12.30pm
Cairns, 1st March 2018, Colonial Club, 9am-12.30pm
- ◆ **Soil Health & Biology Masterclass for Growers (SRA)**
Innisfail, 6th, 7th & 8th March 2018, Mourilyan Sugar Museum, 7.30pm - 3.30pm
- ◆ **Pre-planting Chemical Grower Info Morning**
Thursday 12th April 2018, Venue & time TBA

2017 SEASON AWARDS NIGHT:

The 2017 Season Productivity Awards Night will again be held at **Warrina Lakes on Thursday 24th May 2018**, commencing at **5pm for a 5.30pm 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 2017!

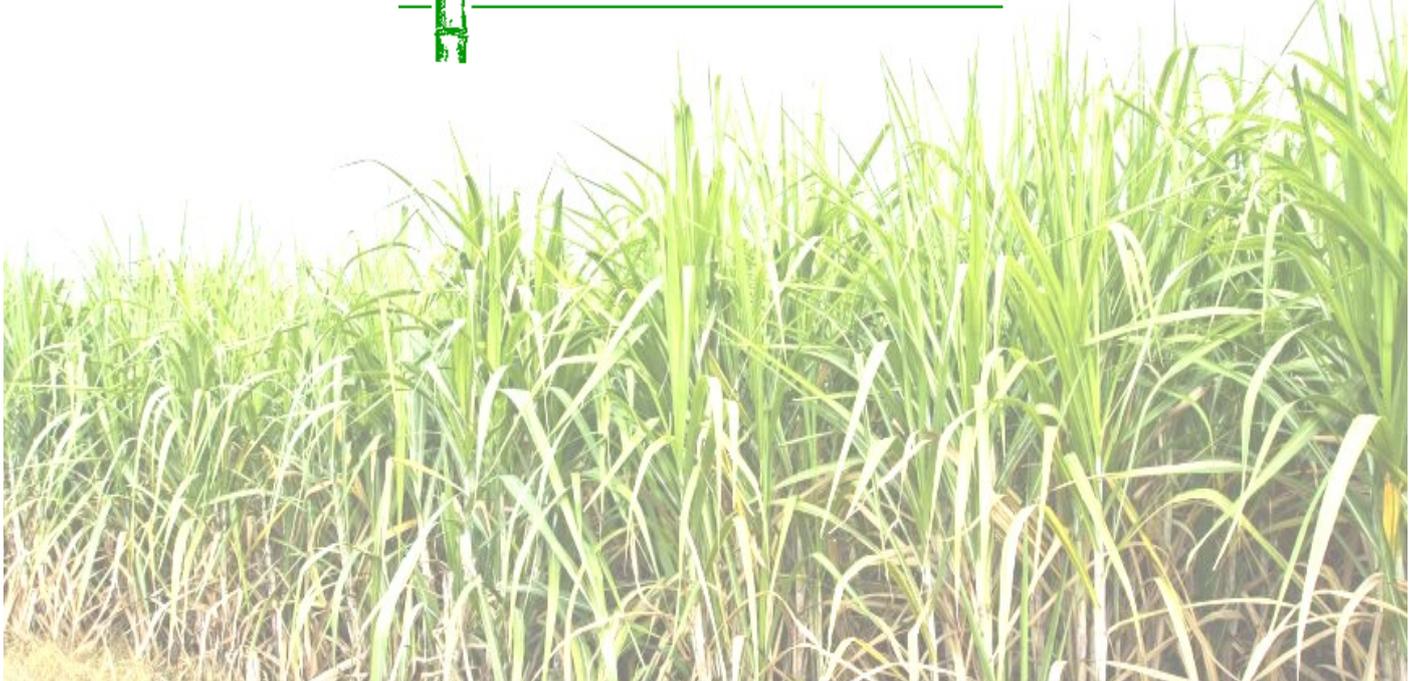


SPOT YOURSELF AT AN EVENT IN 2017!





INNISFAIL BABINDA CANE
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES



INNISFAIL BABINDA CANE
PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES

CHEAP AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL NEW TRADING HOURS

CLOSED ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

 Enquire within to hear about BULK BUY purchases	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>BABINDA DEPOT</td> <td>SOUTH JOHNSTONE DEPOT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7AM - 10AM</td> <td>12PM - 3PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MONDAY-FRIDAY</td> <td>MONDAY-FRIDAY</td> </tr> </table>	BABINDA DEPOT	SOUTH JOHNSTONE DEPOT	7AM - 10AM	12PM - 3PM	MONDAY-FRIDAY	MONDAY-FRIDAY	 Orders over \$1000 FREE DELIVERY OPTIONAL Must work in with Salesperson
BABINDA DEPOT	SOUTH JOHNSTONE DEPOT							
7AM - 10AM	12PM - 3PM							
MONDAY-FRIDAY	MONDAY-FRIDAY							

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**Thankyou to all those who have participated and contributed to the
INNISFAIL BABINDA SUGAR INDUSTRY REPORT 2017**



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