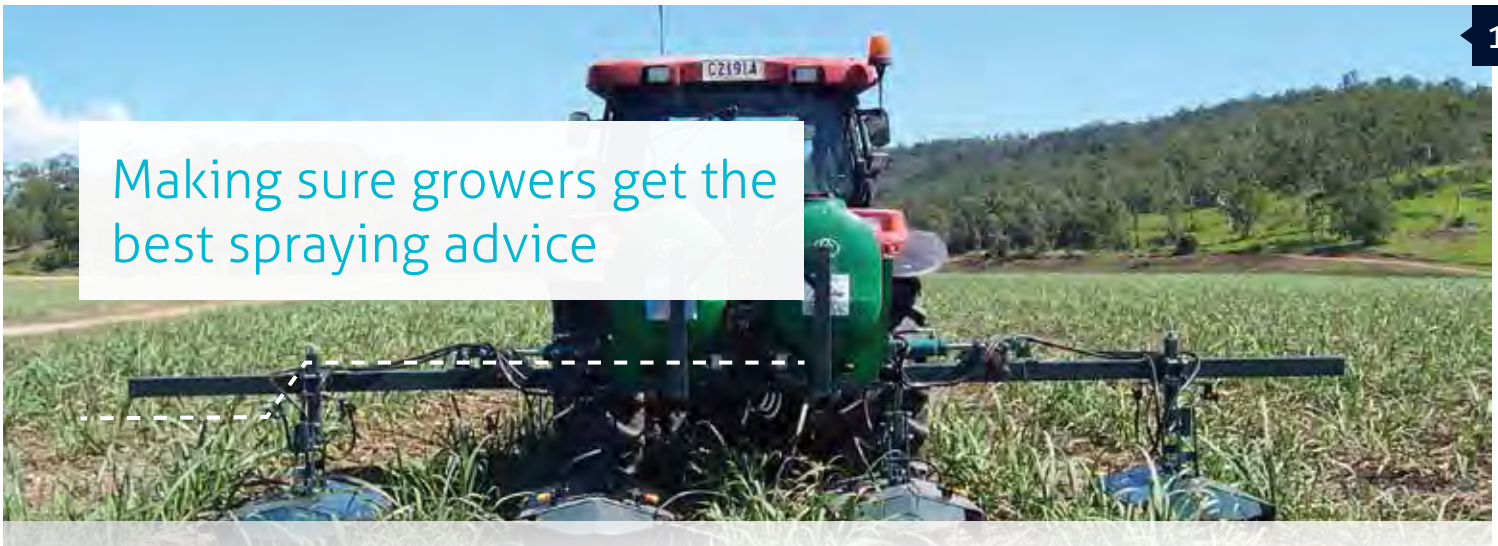

Making sure growers get the best spraying advice

SRA plays an important role in upskilling the advisor community with the latest research findings and practical advice so that they can deliver the best advice on-farm for better results.

In February, 16 agronomists and advisors spent two days at the Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety at the University of Queensland to learn more about spray technologies.

Competition from weeds can cause significant losses for growers. However, the move towards farming systems based on minimum tillage is increasing dependence on herbicides and, as a result, there is growing pressure to reduce herbicide run-off.

Therefore, growers need to understand the new spraying practices and technologies that can save them time and money, while reducing the environmental impact of weed control.

The event, funded by SRA Capacity Building funds, armed attendees with knowledge about how the latest developments could help growers meet these challenges, including:

> developments in drift-control adjuvants and how spray quality is influenced by adjuvant, nozzle and herbicide choice

> the importance of understanding spray quality (spray patterns and the spectrum of droplet sizes) and how to set up spraying systems

> how interactions between operating pressure and adjuvant concentration could weaken spray quality, thereby reducing the efficacy of a herbicide.

> the range of available electronic controllers and how they are best used

> the use of fully automatic controllers to provide a constant application rate during variable travel speeds

For more advice on how spraying systems can be improved in your farming operations, contact your agronomist or advisor.

Above: Attendees at the joint SRA C-START Spray Application Technology Workshop on 6–7 February 2014.