

Mulgrave grower Andrew Greenwood says peanuts have been a valuable legume rotation crop for his sugarcane.

Welcome to the Summer edition of *CaneConnection*

With the harvest complete for most regions, this issue takes a look back at some innovative and modern farm practices being used on farms that help deliver improved outcomes for growers and millers.

In this issue we meet with Tully growers Mario Raccanello and Chris Condon and look at ways they have gone about working with their harvester operators to improve harvest efficiency on their farms. Both are getting positive results and see that there is an ongoing opportunity for the industry to reduce the losses associated with mechanical harvesting.

In this theme, we also have a look at work conducted by the Isis mill where they have painstakingly dissected a cane bin by hand to reveal the exact levels of clean cane compared to extraneous matter. The results were somewhat surprising even for themselves, and have been communicated to the local industry at Isis.

In this issue, we also meet Mulgrave grower Andrew Greenwood (pictured above), who is having impressive results with his cane by using a legume peanut rotation.

We also look at some of the latest advances from SRA-funded research. CSIRO researcher Dr Chris Stokes from Townsville is leading a project looking at improving the water use efficiency of sugarcane. This project is also investigating how the future climate might impact cane production, particularly if there are higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This research is expected to have important implications for the much talked about expansion of the industry in northern Australia, especially if this expansion is in to more marginal conditions.

This edition also provides useful updates on new soldier fly trials, the results that growers are getting through the use of tissue culture, as well as takes a close look at new weed and herbicide trials following an SRA field walk at Gordonvale in October. Tully Productivity Services Limited are working one-on-one with growers to encourage greater adoption of tissue culture, which is helping growers access new SRA varieties sooner.

We also read about some important collaborative research through the Rural Research and Development for Profit program, looking at projects on improving the extension of research, and the better use of climate forecasting.

This magazine is about sharing a mix of stories that is aimed to provide information useful to you as a member of SRA. As always, if you have any thoughts on how you would like to improve this magazine, please call me on (07) 3331 3340 or email bpfeffer@sugarresearch.com.au.

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