Six Easy Steps TM meets industry, government and community obligations

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SIX EASY STEPS™ nutrient management not only focuses on immediate sugarcane yields but also on longer-term sustainability. SIX EASY STEPS™ minimises the risk of losses in productivity, profitability, nutrients and soil resources. This nutrient management program is beneficial to water quality and the general environment, while improving returns to growers. Hence, SIX EASY STEPS™ sits very comfortably with environmental management.

The industry and Queensland and Federal Governments all recognise the SIX EASY STEPS™ Guidelines as the basis of sound nutrient management for the sugarcane industry.

Workshop success in wet tropics

SIX EASY STEPS™ was rolled out across the industry in 2005. In the wet tropics region (Mossman to Ingham), David Calcino and retired agronomist Alan Hurney have so far run 78 workshops. The table shows that almost 80 percent of the area growing cane has been represented at a workshop.

Attendance to date (Mossman to Ingham)

| Proportion of region represented at workshops (%) | 78 |
| Number of growers | 701 |
| Number of other attendees* | 98 |
| Number of workshops | 64 |

*Productivity services, agribusiness, advisers, government, CANEGROWERS, milling companies, SRA, NRM and farm workers.

Future of SIX EASY STEPS™

SIX EASY STEPS™ Guidelines will continue to be modified as new research findings provide improvements to current recommendations.

The national and international focus on water quality on the Great Barrier Reef will intensify. The Australian Government’s Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan will be a component of that attention and pressure will continue to be exerted on the sugarcane industry to reduce its environmental impact.

SIX EASY STEPS™ provides a sound strategy to improve profitability and long-term sustainability at the same time as minimising environmental impacts. Choosing the correct rate of nutrient and applying it in a timely and safe manner will meet individual and industry obligations to the environment while maximising profitability.

Participation in SIX EASY STEPS™ will also satisfy part of the voluntary, industry-operated Best Management Practice program which all growers are urged to complete.

Recent workshops have been funded through Terrain NRM through a multi-agency partnership.