

New precision agriculture manual helps put even more information at growers' fingertips

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has released a new manual that is aiming to hasten the uptake of precision agriculture technology in the Australian sugarcane industry.

The manual, *Precision agriculture for the sugarcane industry*, looks at all aspects of this modern farming technology and practice and provides useful advice for growers who are looking to invest as well as for those who are already using precision agriculture.

SRA Manager Mr James Ogden-Brown, said that precision agriculture was an example of a modern farming technology where there was significant potential for gain for the industry, with greater adoption able to benefit both growers and millers.

'This manual provides growers with important information that can help inform investments in precision

agriculture, which in turn can mean more sustainable growers and more cane across the rollers for sugarcane millers,' Mr Ogden-Brown said.

'With production costs increasing, this is another way for the Australian industry to improve its productivity and competitiveness.

'This guide sets out steps to adoption, outlines the benefits, and provides case studies on growers who are already putting the technology to good use.

'I encourage growers, millers, and advisors to grab a copy of the guide.'

Proserpine cane grower Tony Large is part of a local farming group that has spread and shared the investment in precision agriculture across this group, allowing the group to make investments that would have been difficult for them as individuals.

'For us, precision agriculture is about efficiency and making us more sustainable, for example by reducing soil compaction,' Mr Large said.

Although his group has already made the investment, he said that the manual would be useful for those who were looking to invest.

'I found it (the manual) especially useful where it ran through the range of GPS units that are available to help you choose which one suits you,' he said. 'I'd advise anyone looking to make the investment to consider those recommendations in the manual.'

For a copy of the manual email Andrea Evers on aegers@sugarresearch.com.au or call (07) 3331 3333.

SRA unveils new and comprehensive library of industry research

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has unveiled a new resource for the Australian sugarcane industry bringing together a comprehensive library of industry research into one publicly accessible location.

The elibrary is available via the SRA website www.sugarresearch.com.au and provides full-text access to many research reports and electronic publications authored by SRA researchers and staff or sponsored by SRA.

SRA CEO Neil Fisher said the library had come in direct response to our industry representative bodies' and members' requests to have readily available access to industry research data, reports, and other communications.

'The work gathered here is freely available and the library will be a growing collection of data from the research activities across the cane industry,' Mr Fisher said.

'The site has a powerful search function that allows users to pinpoint across a range of topics and find exactly what they are looking for. Information is grouped according to SRA's eight key focus areas of research. I encourage our industry investors and other stakeholders to make the most of this important resource.

'If you are a grower or miller you can enter a key word or words and get a one page summary of our research. If you want further information, another click will give you a complete report.

'If you are a researcher, you can access the full scientific report and other reports on the same or similar topic or research theme.'

