

“This research has useful implications for both growers and millers. It has positive implications for the farming system and its efficiency, and also for product diversification and value-adding,” Mr Fisher said.

“It has strong collaborations between QUT and Sunshine Sugar in NSW, and it also will deliver practical and useful outcomes for the entire Australian sugarcane industry.”

The project is being led by Floren Plaza at QUT and it builds a concept developed in a PhD study by Chris Henderson. The PhD study involved a relatively small design, and this new project has an objective of scaling-up the technology.

Details of the process are not identified as there is an intent to patent the concept.

“Trash in cane supply has a lot of negative impacts such as wear and tear, less quality, and sugar loss,”

QUT's Dr Geoff Kent explained at recent milling research workshops.

“The fibre is also gaining in value. Yes, there is value for it in the field, but there is more there than there is needed for that purpose.”

Opposite: An investigation into a new cane-cleaning system could eventually lead to a reduced need for cane fires in some situations.

Milling research delivered direct to industry

Milling researchers have hit the road in early 2016 to bring the latest research findings and information to the millers of the Australian sugarcane industry.

The forums were a collaboration between Sugar Research Australia and the Queensland University of Technology, which is one of SRA's main research partners into milling efficiency and technology and also product diversification and value addition.

Researchers from QUT and SRA spoke at the events held in Mackay, Innisfail, Townsville, Bundaberg and Broadwater. Speakers included Eloise Keeffe and Jo Stringer from SRA and Geoff Kent and Ross Broadfoot from QUT.

The aim of the seminars was to communicate some of the research that is currently being conducted in the milling sector. SRA thanks all of those who attended the events.



Above: Wilmar staff at the event in Townsville hear from Dr Geoff Kent from QUT. This was one of five events held recently.