

# Growers continue interest in SIX EASY STEPS™

*SIX EASY STEPS™ is a science-based nutrient management tool that enables the adoption of best practice nutrient management on-farm. It is acknowledged as industry best-practice of nutrient management to optimise productivity and profitability without adversely influencing soil fertility or causing off-farm effects.*

SRA continues to hold SIX EASY STEPS™ introductory and refresher workshops across the Wet Tropics from Mossman to Ingham. Workshops are also occurring in other regions across the industry. The workshops have largely been run by SRA Adoption Officer, David Calcino, and retired agronomist Alan Hurney. David and Alan have held 66 workshops involving 726 growers and 101 other attendees, with 79 percent of the cane area of the wet tropics represented at a workshop.

In addition, since March 2015, half-day refresher nutrient management workshops have been held in the wet tropics. This includes 12 workshops with 130 growers and 24 other attendees.

There has also been 14 other full workshops throughout the industry including NSW. Government advisers and milling staff have been provided with workshops specifically for them.

Terrain NRM has, and continues to, fund many of the workshops in an effort to achieve on-farm practice change to reduce nutrient losses and improve water quality.

SIX EASY STEPS™ focuses on maximising productivity and reducing nutrient losses. Therefore, the productivity benefit coming from the SIX EASY STEPS™ program is totally compatible with the good environmental outcomes growers and the community seek.

Below is what some of the growers and attendees had to say at a recent workshop in 2016 at Mourilyan.

Mr Hurney said the workshops were aimed at giving growers training so they could best utilise the SIX EASY STEPS™ guidelines and adopt them on their property.

"It is about productivity and keeping growers viable," he said.

*Read what the participants had to say below:*

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I came to the workshop to learn if there are any procedures that we can improve on. It is important that we keep our efficiency as high as we can. Your soil is your biggest asset, so it is important that we preserve our soil health. I want to be able to maximise yield and maximise efficiency, to try and stay competitive.

**Daniel Borg,  
Cowley**

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I came to do the SIX EASY STEPS™ workshop to see whether there are ways to improve what we are doing, and to see if we can save a few costs along the way as well as grow the crop that we have to.

You have to grow the best crop you can. In the area that we are in, the rainfall at times can give you not the yield that you would like and you have to ride the rollercoaster with the weather with the good and the bad. Hopefully in the end there is more good than bad. SIX EASY STEPS™ is hopefully giving you what you need to grow a crop, without any extra cost.

**Steve Bonso, Mirriwinni**

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I have recently bought a farm and I came here today to try and learn how to maximise the nutrients I am putting into the ground and how to minimise the loss of what I am putting in. I want to be able to benefit my financial future and also to grow the best crop that I can. I had heard about the SIX EASY STEPS™ program and what could be required, so coming today allowed me to learn those key points, so that I can start off on the right foot going into the business and into farming.

**Damien Wurth, Garradunga**

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I bought my property in 2012. I am here today as I am trying to learn as much about farming as I can, and soil nutrition seems to be one of the most important aspects of it. I didn't know much about SIX EASY STEPS™, which was the reason I came along, to learn about it.

**Bob Moore,  
Mena Creek**

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