

# News from SRA

*We update you on recent activities occurring within your industry-owned company for research, development and adoption*



## **SRA appoints Executive Manager, Technology**

SRA has announced the appointment of Dr Frikkie Botha to lead its research division, filling the pivotal role of Executive Manager, Technology. Dr Botha comes to the role with an extensive Australian and international career in sugarcane research, including more than 35 years' experience in academic, corporate and entrepreneurial R&D. Dr Botha had previously been SRA's Executive Manager, Strategic Initiatives, and he has held previous roles in the Australian sugarcane industry. He is also a former Managing Director of the South African Sugarcane Research Institute, a Director of the Institute for Plant Biotechnology, and Professor of Plant Biotechnology at the Universities of Kwa-Zulu Natal and Stellenbosch. He is currently an honorary Professor at the University of Queensland and executive member of the International Society of Sugarcane Technologists. Dr Botha also oversees the SRA Yellow Canopy Syndrome research program.



## **Nick Hill, Adoption Officer – Farming Systems**

Nick Hill is a recent addition to both Mackay and the SRA Adoption team, having moved to Queensland from the NSW Central West. Prior to this appointment to the SRA Adoption team he worked for the NSW Department of Primary Industries Southern Cropping Systems in a Technical Agronomic capacity.

"As a member of the SRA Adoption team, I have the role of farming systems and I am keen to work with members of the sugarcane industry to enhance the profitability, productivity and sustainability of the industry," Nick said. He can be contacted on: 0477 316 503.



## **SRA welcomes new engineer to harvest efficiency team**

SRA has added new engineering expertise to its team that is working with the Australian sugarcane industry to improve the efficiency of the harvest.

SRA has welcomed mechanical engineer Mr Joseph Bonassi to its team of research and adoption staff, where he will work on this major focus area of research. Joseph is based at SRA's Ingham research station alongside SRA Adoption Officer, Mr Phil Patane, and the pair will conduct vital research and adoption activities across the industry.

This includes activities as part of a significant investment into sugarcane harvest efficiency through the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural R&D for Profit programme, where SRA is leading a major integrated research and adoption program.

Mr Bonassi has a Bachelor of Engineering through James Cook University.