



International scientist joins SRA chemistry and NIR team

SRA has added expertise and capacity to its chemistry laboratory and near-infra red (NIR) work with the appointment of experienced Senior Chemist, Dr Heidi du Clou.

Dr du Clou has worked internationally on sugarcane research, previously in South Africa and New Zealand, and joins the SRA team to work on a range of projects that drive outcomes for Australian sugarcane growers and millers.

While at the South African Sugar Milling Research Institute NPC (SMRI) she earned a PhD in chemistry for her thesis *Characterisation of extracellular polysaccharides produced from a fungal pathogen of sugarcane.*

Dr du Clou's primary focus will be in SRA's Indooroopilly chemistry laboratory to ensure it continues to deliver high quality and timely outputs for a range of projects

related to milling, soil health, chemical residues and NIR.

Dr du Clou will work closely with Key Focus Area (KFA) Leader, Mr Steve Staunton, and other chemistry lab staff, on projects and work highly valued by SRA's milling investors.

"We are excited to bring Heidi's international expertise in sugarcane to SRA and the Australian industry," Mr Staunton said.

SRA invests in a range of activities for the milling sector through KFA 5 *Milling efficiency and technology* and KFA 6 *Product diversification and value addition.*

Dr du Clou said she looked forward to creating practical Outcomes for millers and growers.

"The SRA chemistry lab and NIR work provide vital services and research and development activity for the Australian sugarcane industry. This

role is a fantastic opportunity to work closely with growers and millers and help SRA continue to deliver upon their requirements," she said. ■

For more information, contact Dr Heidi du Clou on
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(Top left) Plant Breeding Technician Matt Tinai and Dr Heidi du Clou in the field. (Top right) Dr Heidi du Clou. (Bottom right) Dr Heidi du Clou and Matt Tinai inspect seedlings.