

# Catalyst Project Report

## Grower Information

<b>Grower Name:</b>	John Fox
<b>Entity Name:</b>	MRS LI & JG FOX
<b>Trial Farm No/Name:</b>	MKY-01480A
<b>Mill Area:</b>	Mackay Sugar
<b>Total Farm Area ha:</b>	307
<b>No. Years Farming:</b>	
<b>Trial Subdistrict:</b>	Wagoora
<b>Area under Cane ha:</b>	268

## **Background Information**

**Aim:** To evaluate the reduction of nutrients on late-harvested crops that have a lower yield potential

**Background: (Rationale for why this might work)**

The 2016 harvest season in the Mackay Sugar mill area did not finish until December. The blocks cut late in the year will have reduced yield in the 2017 season simply due to the fact that the growing season has been shortened by the late cut. This trial will investigate the possibility of reducing fertiliser on blocks with an expected reduction in yield potential.

Because the crop has compromised yield, applying lower rates of nutrients should have no negative impact on crop growth. Better matching fertiliser use to the yield potential can lead to increases in nutrient use efficiency, reduced losses and increased profitability.

**Potential Water Quality Benefit:**

Reduced risk of nitrogen run-off from farm

**Expected Outcome of Trial:**

There will be no significant difference between the treatments

**Service provider contact: Farmacist**

**Where did this idea come from: Grower & Farmacist**

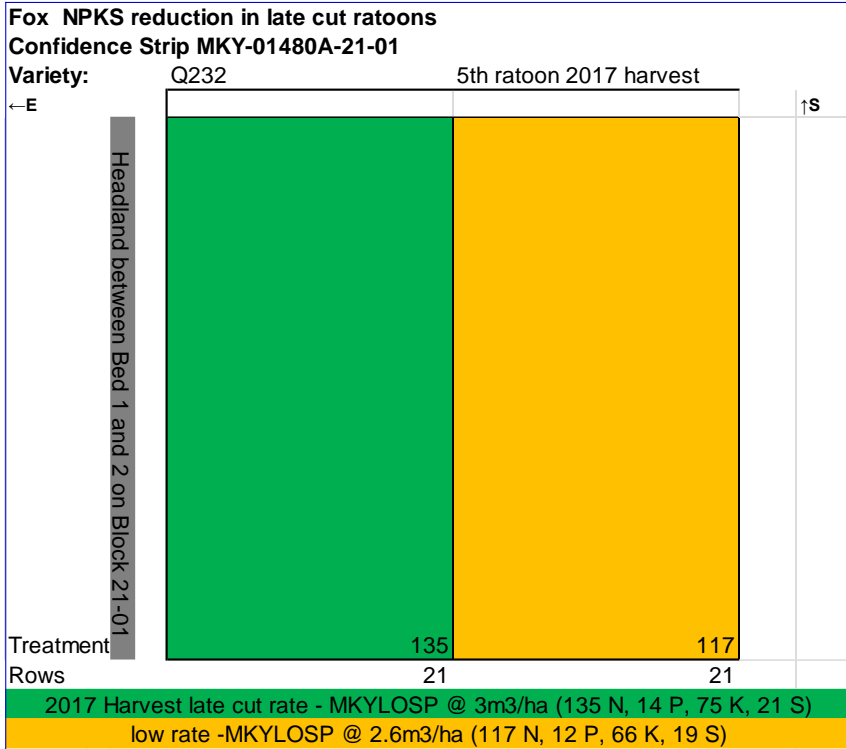
<b><u>Plan - Project Activities</u></b>	<b>Date : (mth/year to be undertaken)</b>	<b>Activities :(breakdown of each activity for each stage)</b>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>23 December 2016</b>	Crop harvested
<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>January 2016</b>	Crop fertilised
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>October/November 2017</b>	Harvest production
<b>Stage 4</b>		
<b>Stage 5</b>		
<b>Stage 6</b>		

## Project Trial site details

<b>Trial Crop:</b>	Sugarcane
<b>Variety:</b>	Q232
<b>Rat/Plt:</b>	5R
<b>Trial Block No/Name:</b>	21-01
<b>Trial Block Size Ha:</b>	4.5
<b>Trial Block Position (GPS):</b>	148.714063, -20.849354
<b>Soil Type:</b>	Pindi

**Block History, Trial Design:**

This site was set out as a confidence strip, assessing the decrease in applied nutrient on a late cut crop.



**Plan**

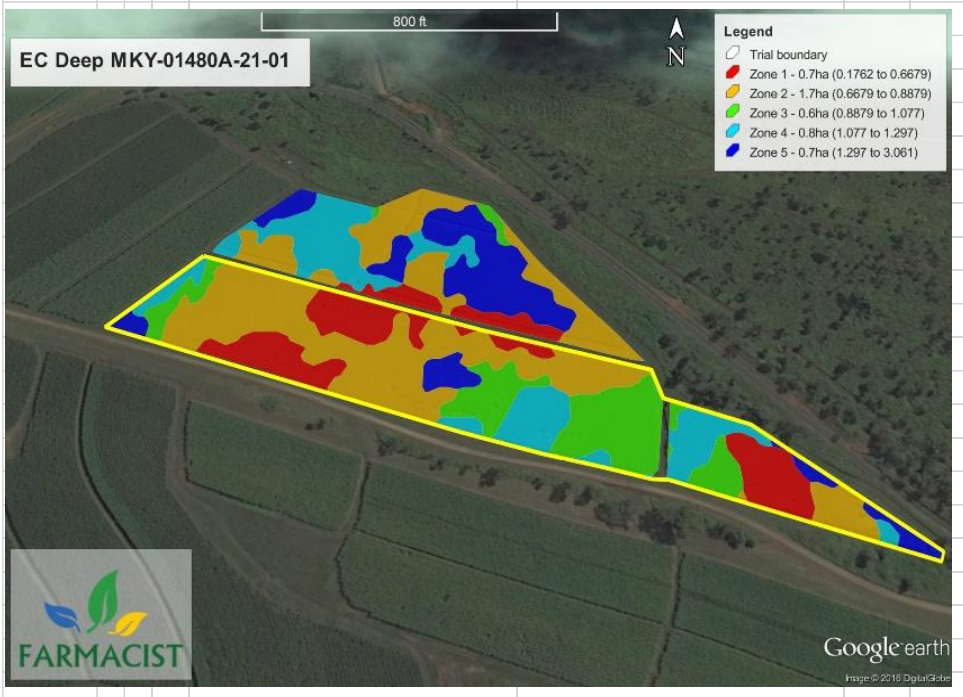
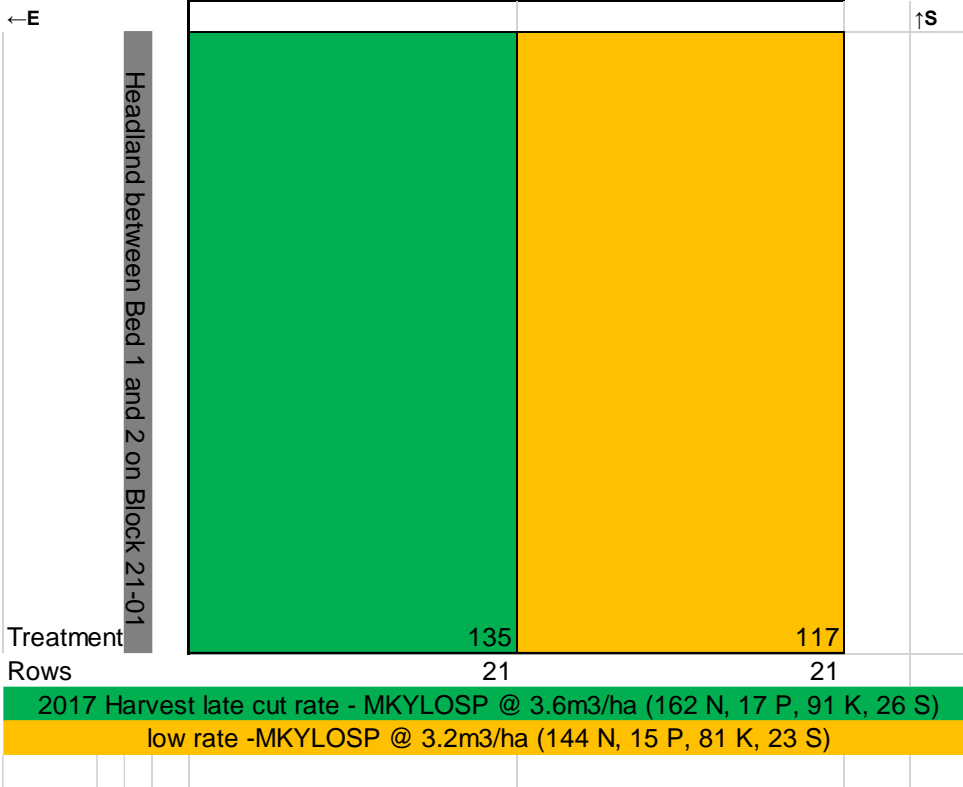
**Fox NPKS reduction in late cut ratoons**

**Confidence Strip MKY-01480A-21-01**

Variety:

Q232

5th ratoon 2017 harvest



**Actual Treatments, Due to the late harvest this was the only block left to fertilise, therefore the load was run out on the paddock.**

**Treatments:**

1. Standard – MKY LOSP @ 3.6m<sup>3</sup>/ha (N 162: P 17: K 91: S 26)
2. Low rate – MKY LOSP @ 3.2m<sup>3</sup>/ha (N 144: P 15: K 81: S 23)

## Results:

## Conclusions and comments

**Advantages of this Practice Change:**

**Disadvantages of this Practice Change:**

**Will you be using this practice in the future:**

**% of farm you would be confident to use this practice :**