



Case Study

Improved Nutrient Management Planning



LANDHOLDER	Paul Croatto
LOCATION	Boogan
CATCHMENT	Johnstone
RAINFALL	3283mm
PROPERTY SIZE	64.3ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	CANEGROWERS Innisfail

Project Catalyst is a grower led, sugar cane innovation and adoption project that explores, develops and validates farm management practice change to improve the enduring water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

BROADER ADOPTION VALIDATION & GROWER SUPPORT

Founded in 2009, the project operates in the Mackay Whitsunday, Burdekin and Wet Tropic regions to deliver valued practice change outcomes and develop methods for industry adoption. Under the Broader Adoption and Grower Support program, professional on-ground service providers assist selected growers to adopt and validate appropriate change practices. Service providers continue to monitor implementation benefits and derived environmental performance improvements. Through targeted extension activities, the program seeks to accelerate the uptake and broader adoption of improved farming practices at local, regional and industry levels.



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



●●●● Goal

To develop a whole of farm nutrient management plan with specific focus on improving phosphorous management.



Ratoon cane

●●●● Overview

The aim of this project is to develop a Whole of Farm Nutrient Management Plan with Paul that takes into account all aspects of nutrient management not just focusing on a single nutrient.

The process takes into account all relevant agronomic data as well as grower knowledge and experience when producing the plan

●●●● Action

Paul's approach to nutrient management and his farm history were discussed at length to gather information including other crops he has grown, previous applications of mill mud or ash, liming and productivity. This information was used to determine the best way to improve nutrient management across his whole farm.

By reviewing Paul's existing soil test results and soil maps we were able to assess his current and historic soil nutrient status to identify two nutrient management zones across his farm. One requiring 130kg/ha N, 0kg/ha P and 100kg/ha K and the other 150kg/ha N, 15kg/ha P and 120kg/ha K for ratoon crops.

Following these reviews a whole farm nutrient management plan was produced and implemented.

●●●● Outcome

The nutrient management plan was implemented across the whole farm for the 2021 crop. Paul and his extension officer will monitor the crop and yields as part of the annual review of the NMP.

A soil sampling plan for the 2021 plant has also been discussed.