

Case Study

New Sugarcane Grower



| LANDHOLDER | Joseph Russo |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| LOCATION | Bambaroo |
| CATCHMENT | Lower Herbert |
| RAINFALL | 1432mm |
| PROPERTY SIZE | 48ha |
| ON-GROUND PROVIDER | HCPSL |

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 bene its 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.















•••• Goal

To learn and implement some new farming systems.



Overview

Joseph has only just taken on the farm less than two years ago and is learning how to manage soil constraints on his farm.

• Action

- Soil testing
- Pathology soil testing (Pachymetra & nematodes)
- Variety mapping
- Liming plan

Outcome

- Joseph has implement a nutrient management plan with HCPSL which has covered soil constraints that he needs to address like applying amelioration such as lime and gypsum. He has a developed variety plan to help him track where and what cane varieties he has and whether he should change them to resist pathological problems like pachymetra and smut.



Nutrient Plan budget tool









