

Project Catalyst Update



As the year quickly speeds by, we hope that in 2021 you've been able to return to a new normal. Our thoughts remain with our interstate-based project sponsors who continue to be impacted by travel restrictions. We hope to see them all in the not-too-distant future.



Forum 2021

Following the theme 'Adopting a Decade of Innovation – Securing our Farming Future', the Project Catalyst forum was held in February 2021 at The Ville Resort – Casino, Townsville. The revised format included a welcome function followed by one day of talks from several guest speakers, Project Catalysts trials presentations and other interesting projects. Keynote speaker, Dr Adam Smith provided a wonderful insight into the farming and reef ecology relationship and our own Michael Reinaudo officiated over the dinner function to the delight of all. Guest dinner speaker Tony Matchett entertained attendees with his 'Whales and the Fallow' tale of his own life journey and a great night was had by all.

The Forum program covered a wide range of highly relevant topics this year including:

- Trial presentations by service providers and growers from all three catchment regions
- Breakout sessions with presentations about projects run by Farmacist, Savannah Ag Consulting, DAF, Liqueforce and James Cook University

- Two new Virtual Farm Tour videos:

- Advancing Innovation -

<https://youtu.be/9RHpetIsfjY>

- Broader Adoption -

<https://youtu.be/mpOBGYTguPw>

Please follow these links to view them.

As always, the Forum provided a great opportunity to network, catch up with friends and make some new ones. Thank you to all who completed the feedback forms. Your comments and suggestions are greatly appreciated. We sincerely thank all the growers who attended and again extend our appreciation to the speakers, guests, service providers, sponsors and organisers. Please visit the Project Catalyst YouTube channel for all the latest trial and Forum 2021 video presentations.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5Yng3Pcn7lf9HLwBcxOkA>

Please share this link with friends and family! – our latest video from the 2021 Forum and field tours.

<https://youtu.be/lwNKbbSn3as>

Work on next year's Forum will start shortly and we're looking at possibility

Cairns or Port Douglas on 20th to 22nd February 2022. Please save the date and pass on any suggestions for topics, speakers etc to the project team. We'd love your input!

Current Activities

With funding confirmed from The Coca-Cola Foundation, WWF-Australia and Catchment Solutions are working on this year's program to continue Coke's Broader Adoption Program. On ground service providers will be in contact soon to discuss with current and future growers interested in the program.

Some great news from the GBRF is that extension funding will allow Project Catalyst to continue a number of our existing innovation trials for a further year. We'll provide further information on this once funding agreements are finalised.

Practice change adoption projects in the Pioneer/Plane Creek and Lower Herbert regions are underway and will run through to mid-2024. We welcome the new growers coming into this program to the Catalyst family.



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



Recent Events

Project Catalyst Tour Program

Following the Project Catalyst Forum, many delegates joined the Project Catalyst field tour program and visited one of three locations.

- In the Burdekin, Farmacist hosted a tour of the DPI research facility, and Denis Pozzebon and Bryan Langdon's farms to look at fallow crop varieties, soil health, multi species cropping and groundwater nitrate monitoring technology.
- At Cape Ferguson, Project Catalyst hosted a visit to AIMS and enjoyed a guided tour of the facility where growers were able to talk with scientist about the



Jasmine Connolly checks out some healthy mixed species fallow cropping in the Burdekin



Agronomists brush up on statistical methods

interactions between farming and the Reef, as well as Reef ecology.

- In the Ingham district HCPSL hosted a visit to Alan Lynn's farm for presentations by Alan, Megan Zahmel and Lawrence Di Bella about mixed legumes, rotational cropping, soil health and yield improvement.

Training

Many Project Catalyst's On-Ground Service Providers recently attended a refresher course in statistics at the Ayr DPI research facility. The course focused on good trial design, sampling methods and the importance of understanding how to work

with data and trial information. A great time was had by all, perhaps surprisingly considering the heavy topic, and everyone came away with an improved understanding of how to implement and produce high quality research. The course was so popular that it was run twice just to accommodate the 26 willing participants!

A big thank you to DAF Biometricians Angela Anderson and David Reid for organising and running the sessions and to Mark Poggio and the DAF Biometricians team for generously putting together this specially tailored course at no charge.

Grower and Service Provider Visits

One of the great aspects of Project Catalyst is being able to work with so many different partners, service providers and growers, and understanding how we can continue to work on improving farming systems. As always, Project Coordinator Ross Neivandt will be meeting with services providers and growers in the Mackay Whitsundays, Burdekin and Wet Tropics as often as he can. Please make contact if you wish to catch up with Ross or discuss anything Catalyst.



Visitors to AIMS at Cape Ferguson enjoy a glimpse of Reef life



Growers learn of Alan Lynn soil improvement experience

Please visit the Project Catalyst website for all the latest news and project information.

PROJECT CATALYST WEBSITE

Project videos are also available at Project Catalyst's YouTube Channel

PROJECT CATALYST YOUTUBE CHANNEL

For further information, contact:

Ross Neivandt

Catchment Solutions

rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au

0408 139 289

Andrew Campbell

Catchment Solutions

acampbell@catchmentsolutions.com.au

0408 875 633

