

# Project Catalyst Update



PROJECT  
CATALYST

We hope you've all had a great season and are looking forward to a break over the Christmas and New Year period. Best wishes to you all from the Project Catalyst team, stay safe and we hope to see you soon in Cairns at Forum 2022.

## Forum 2022

*Growing Ideas Advancing Best Practice;  
driving productivity and environmental success*

It's that time of year again as we rapidly approach our major annual grower event – the Project Catalyst Forum. This year we will be gathering in Cairns for our welcome drinks, presentations and dinner at The Pullman Cairns International, followed by a day of field activities in Cairns and the Tablelands. The event runs from 20th to 22nd February 2022 so please book early as tickets are limited. If you haven't received your invitation or would like to see if we have additional tickets available, contact Catchment Solutions on 07 4968 4216.

A special condition for the 2022 event is you must be fully COVID-19 vaccinated to book any tickets. You will also be required to show a valid vaccination certificate when entering the Pullman Cairns International and attending the field trip.

Tickets are limited to 150 people for the welcome drinks, day 1 presentations and dinner; and 90 participants for the field trip. Make sure you get in early as tickets are only available until 17th January 2022.

We're all looking forward to a wonderful event that provides a great range of information of interest to all growers. Just a few of the topics to be covered include:

- DAF's research into bean crop disease in the Burdekin
- A grower's experience working with tissue cultured sugarcane varieties
- The latest on coral breeding and planting on the Great Barrier Reef

The Forum 2022 event program will be available in the Project Catalyst website in January.

## Update from Coca-Cola and WWF-Australia

We are fortunate once again that The Coca-Cola Foundation and WWF-Australia will continue to support Project Catalyst in 2022. Contributions will be used for our on-ground service providers to



*Discussing the ins and outs of mixed species cover cropping in the O'Connell Catchment*

continue to support growers in a third year of the practice change adoption program. This program will continue to promote precision nutrient application, weed and pest management and legume fallow practices that commenced in the Burdekin and Wet Tropics regions in 2020.

## Expression of Interest - Project Catalyst's Innovation Future

November saw the release of our latest EOI, calling for the next wave of innovation and practice change ideas for Project Catalyst growers to explore, develop and trial. We've received several responses so far and look forward to seeing what other innovation concepts we can present to potential funding partners. This EOI round has no budget limits and remains open for the foreseeable future. Please be part of Project Catalyst's future innovation solution by thinking big and working with your on-ground service provider to complete an application. All applications are added to our shovel ready bank of projects for consideration by organisations committed to supporting improved productivity and sustainability of Australian farming operations.

## Recent Events

### Mackay Whitsundays - Fallow Cover Cropping with Legume & Mixed Species Field Day

Run in partnership with Farmacist, Nutrien Ag Solutions joined Catchment Solutions to bring Calen area growers a well-attended Fallow Cover Cropping with Legume & Mixed Species field day. Industry leading agronomists provided a fascinating insight into cover cropping and covered topics from seed selection to planting equipment, soil constraints and some words of insight and wisdom from Michael Zamparutti who kindly hosted the event on his farm. With the help of Nutrien's famous BBQ trailer, Catchment Solutions General Manager Andrew Campbell cooked up a wonderful lunch that was enjoyed by all. Kim and Jac captured vision of the entire event and have produced a fantastic practice fact video titled "Practice Change - Mixed Species Cropping" available now on the Project Catalyst YouTube Channel here:

<https://youtu.be/pG8mcomXVpc>





*Ingham growers learning about the various bean planting options and methods*

## Wet Tropics - Bean Planter Workshop

Megan, Bethany, Lawrence, and the team from HCPSL held a Bean Planter workshop and breakfast in November. Over 40 people, including 20 growers new to Project Catalyst heard from experts about building their own bean planters, planter calibration, inoculant application and what to consider with legumes. Continuing to directly support Project Catalyst's on-ground service providers and grower events, Ross also attended this great workshop to chat with new and old project growers and lend a hand. Thanks to Alan Lynn for hosting the event on his property.

Kim and Jac also attended to interview growers and discover new stories, while in the Wet Tropics district for three days of Project Catalyst filming. A range of videos will be produced, including Forum 2022 virtual farm tours and additional fallow crop practice fact videos.

## Case Studies

**Planet Ark's Australian Circular Economy HUB** has published a Case Study on Project Catalyst that is an interesting read about the sustainability aspects of Project Catalyst's work. "Project Catalyst is a network of sugarcane growers who develop innovative approaches to farming that improve productivity and reduce the impact that farming has on the environment. Other growers join Project Catalyst to adopt improved farming practices to increase productivity and environmental performance at a larger scale."

Read the full article here:

<https://acehub.org.au/knowledge-hub/case-studies/project-catalyst>

**NRM Regions Australia** also produced a Project Catalyst case study that acknowledges the close working relationships that Project Catalyst enjoys

with long term supporters and NRM groups, as well as the outstanding successes of the program. The article explains the project's innovation and practice change adoption pathways that encourage and support growers to adopt new methods once they are proven. The article further acknowledges the 2019 Reef Water Quality Report Card where Project Catalyst is proclaimed to be a major contributor to the creation of important social outcomes.

[https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NRMStoriesProject-Catalyst-2009-ongoing\\_LR.pdf](https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NRMStoriesProject-Catalyst-2009-ongoing_LR.pdf)

These types of articles give Project Catalyst outreach well beyond what we would normally expect and help raise awareness of the important roll innovation and broader adoption practice change plays in our country's farming future.





## Website Updates

Trial Case Study Economic Analysis Reports are now available on the Project Catalyst website [www.projectcatalyst.net.au](http://www.projectcatalyst.net.au), including a summary report of findings for Project Catalyst trials grouped into nutrient, chemical, water and soil sections. A huge thanks to Mark, Brendon, and Tich from the DAF Agricultural Economics team for completing this body of valuable work.

Thanks also to the HCPSL team for developing our latest Inoculant Practice Factsheet that outlines types of inoculants and things to consider when using them. This handy guide is available via the Fact Sheets link the Project Catalyst website homepage, or click here: <https://2ijj6p1o44lqmxqbetma93hu-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/files/2021/12/Fact-sheet-inoculants.pdf>



### Peat

**Description**  
Finely ground sterilized peat containing rhizobia with adhesive.

**Storage**  
Refrigerate at 4°C. Do not freeze.

**Application**  
Create peat slurry by mixing with clean water. Seeds can be either coated before sowing or peat can be placed into porous bag and added to water for liquid injection. Sow within 5hrs.



### Liquid

**Description**  
Suspension of rhizobia in protective liquid formulation with adhesive 'sticker' powder.

**Storage**  
Refrigerate at 4°C. Do not freeze.

**Application**  
Mix inoculant and adhesive with clean water and either apply directly to seed or add into inoculation tank for liquid injection. Sow within 5hrs of application.



### Freeze-dried

**Description**  
Vial of soluble powder with additional protective agent. Activated when reconstituted with liquid.

**Storage**  
Refrigerate at 4°C. Do not freeze.

**Application**  
Mix freeze-dried powder with water and either apply directly to seed or add to inoculation tank for liquid injection. Sow within 5hrs.

RESOURCES ONLINE | [www.projectcatalyst.net.au](http://www.projectcatalyst.net.au)



We've also linked our six most recent videos to the Project Catalyst website, including the new Practice Change - Mixed Species Fallow Cropping piece.

Other videos include:

- Sugarcane Innovation to Practice Adoption for a Healthy Reef
- Shed talks EM and VRA
- Grower Forum 2021 and Field Tours
- Advancing Innovation
- Broader Adoption

Please make the most of this valuable information as it showcases the wonderful innovation work Catalyst growers have done, as well as showing the progress of new growers on Catalyst's practice change pathway. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your local Project Catalyst on-ground service provider or Project Catalyst coordinator Ross Neivandt. We're here to help.

## Grower and Service Provider Visits

Ross spent a week in November meeting with growers, visiting farms, attending HCPSL's Bean Planting field day, and checking in with our Wet Tropics on-ground service providers. As always, these visits led to interesting and inspiring discussions around the future of innovation in the industry; the ongoing challenges we face and the successes we share. Of particular interest was the innovation Expression of Interest we have just released, so it's great to see ideas coming through already. Ross will continue to visit the Mackay Whitsundays, Burdekin, and Wet Tropics as often as possible, so please make contact if you wish.



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

**PROJECT CATALYST  
WEBSITE**

Project and Forum videos  
are also available at  
**Project Catalyst's  
YouTube Channel**

**PROJECT CATALYST  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

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Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

