



# Case Study

## Mixed Fallow Legumes & Bio-fertilizers



<b>LANDHOLDER</b>	Ian Kemp
<b>LOCATION</b>	Sunnybank, Ingham
<b>CATCHMENT</b>	Lower Herbert
<b>RAINFALL</b>	1808mm
<b>PROPERTY SIZE</b>	125 ha
<b>ON-GROUND PROVIDER</b>	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 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 grow mixed legume crops on fallow ground when possible and implement a bio-fertilizer program to supply micro-nutrients to the cane crop via folia spraying.



## ●●●● Overview

Ian believe that improving his soil health he will be able to increase his cane yield and maintain sustainable soils. By growing mixed legume crops on his fallow ground he can improve his soil tilth and structure and supply organic matter which will hopefully allow him to reduce his chemical fertilizer over time. He is also interested in implementing a bio-fertilizer program to supply micro-nutrients to his cane crop in a more available form via folia spraying

## ●●●● Action

- Lime in preparation for mixed legume crop.
- Plant mixed legume crop straight into old cane row without tillage
- Take a bio-fertilizer course to learn how to make bio-fertiliser's
- Source material and brew bio-fertilizer's in preparation for folia spraying young cane crops.

## ●●●● Outcome

Ian has successfully grown mixed legume crops on his fallow ground. He had a mix of cowpea, lablab, sunflowers, sunhemp and soys. He has said that his soil tilth has improved and is looking forward to seeing how his plant cane responds.

Ian has been spraying on his bio-fertilizer brew in his younger ratoon cane.

