



Case Study

Mixed Species Fallowing



LANDHOLDER	Doug Crees
LOCATION	Mossman
CATCHMENT	Mossman
RAINFALL	2000mm (average annual)
PROPERTY SIZE	153.26
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	Mossman Agricultural Services

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.



Doug's soybean fallow block



Doug in mixed fallow block



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



●●●● Goal

To improve soil health and reduce fertilizer application at planting.



Mixed species seed mix in MAS bean planter

●●●● Overview

Doug had not fallowed in several years and had previously planted exclusively soybeans when fallowing. After seeing several growers in the region take up mixed species fallowing and seeing the soil health benefits, and to brighten up the region, Doug opted to recommence fallowing over the 20/21 summer period with a soybean and sunflower mix.

●●●● Action

Doug planted a mix of soybeans and sunflowers in late December 2020. It was planted using GPS guidance at a mix rate of 50kg/ha soybeans and 2kg/sunflower seed. All of his fallow blocks have legumes with a total of 22ha under soy and 12.5ha under the mix.

●●●● Outcome

At present the crop is flourishing thanks to good moisture at the right time. Both crops in the mixed fallow germinated and established well. There was some concerns it would be too wet to plant, however planting on raised beds has proven beneficial. The grower is pleased and confident with the mixed fallow.



Mixed species seed mix