2021

PROJECT CATALYST

Case Study

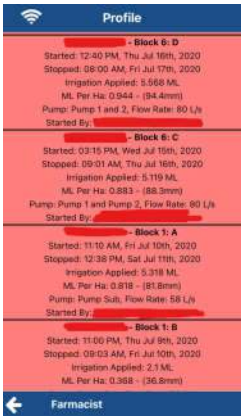
Recording Irrigation Data Using a Smart Phone App

LANDHOLDER	Robert Zandonadi
LOCATION	Airville
CATCHMENT	Burdekin
RAINFALL	984mm
PROPERTY SIZE	88ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	Farmacist-Burdekin

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.



Australian Government | REEF TRUST | Great Barrier Reef Foundation | THE Coca-Cola FOUNDATION | WWF

Goal

To set a grower's farm in a smart phone app to assist them in collecting irrigation record data.

Overview

The Farmacist Irrigation Record App has been trialled on a number of different farms and used to record irrigation data over a season. The growers who have used the app have found it easy to use and appreciate the "start, stop" function for creating irrigations. This suggests that the app can be installed on other growers' phones.

Growers need to have base line irrigation data in order to benchmark To set themselves and identify where they may be able to improve their practices. Using the app to record irrigation data can help growers develop this baseline. From there, they can identify where they may be using too much or not enough water and adjust their practices.

Action

The Farmacist Irrigation Record App has been installed on Robert's phone and set up to reflect his current irrigation management zones and sets. The areas of Robert's blocks and sets have been calculated using spatial data - this takes the error out of calculating the area of sets on oddly shaped blocks!

Robert has had his pump flow rates measured recently and this data has been in put into the app to ensure that the flow rates being used to calculate irrigation volumes are accurate.

To calculate irrigation volumes, the app uses flow rate over time. The duration of the irrigation is determined by a start-stop button within the app and this volume is compared to the spatially derived set area.

Outcome

Since the app has been set up on Robert's smart phone he has been actively recording all of his irrigation volumes and inputting this data into Irrigweb to make his irrigation schedule increasingly accurate! This is a great use of both systems!