

Project Catalyst Update



With the unprecedented disruptions we've all experienced to our lives as COVID-19 continues to severely impact our communities, we wanted to keep you up to date by bringing you our Quarterly Newsletter a little earlier than usual. This is to make sure everyone is up to speed on project progress, our plans going forward with Forum and other events, including plans for new communication products and staff changes in our partner organisations.

A Word From WWF-Australia – Andrew Rouse

It is with mixed emotions I advise you that I'm leaving WWF-Australia. A major factor in my decision to return to WWF-Australia six years ago was the opportunity to take on the WWF managers role with Project Catalyst. I believe it is a stand out project that continues to lead the way in innovation and best practice adoption in cane farming. I've also enjoyed my all too infrequent visits to Queensland to meet with the project team, the growers and agronomists participating in the project, share stories, and see the great things you're doing on farm. I've always been a firm believer in one of the defining principles of Project Catalyst - that best practice can benefit business & the environment, and that these are not competing outcomes. I believe the project has had considerable influence on cane farming beyond the growers involved in the project, a great testament to the many years of committed work by all involved. My very best wishes for the ongoing success of the project. My new email is avrouse@bigpond.com - let me know if you're ever in Melbourne. Andrew Rouse.



Project Catalyst Forum 2022 postponed for 12 months

Forum 2022

Following considered assessment of the potential health risks COVID-19 poses, Coca-Cola, WWF-Australia and Catchment Solutions made the difficult decision to postpone the event in Cairns until February 19-21, 2023. As many growers were hesitant to attend, citing health concerns, ticket numbers were quite low at the time the decision was made. The Pullman Cairns International generously allowed us to postpone for 12 months without penalty if we advised them with a months' notice. I hope this explains the timing of our decision - which we believe was definitely the right move.

The great news is that all speakers and presenters have agreed to support us next year, so we can look forward to a spectacular event in 2023. A big thanks also goes to our sponsors, most of whom have agreed to hold over sponsorship funds to support our next Project Catalyst Forum.

Current Activities

Innovation Trials (10 Growers)

We currently have 10 innovation trials running across the regions, ranging from groundwater nitrate utilisation to mixed species and long-term fallows, legume crops transitioning to cane, precision N planning and application, several variable rate techniques and weed control through drone technology. These exciting and informative trials will be finishing up in the coming months and we look forward to learning more about the outcomes of this all-important innovation work and its potential for development as future practice change methods. We encourage all growers to send in an Expression of Interest for the next round of ground-breaking innovation ideas. Please remember that Project Catalyst is recognised as a leader in this space, and with your ideas we can continue to produce the next generation of productivity and environmental practice improvements and further improve farming performance. See the EOI section later in this newsletter for more information. You can download a copy here:

[Project Catalyst EOI Form](#)



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



Practice Change Adoption

(70 Growers + 10 in 2022)

With 2022 funding confirmed from Coca-Cola Foundation, WWF-Australia and Catchment Solutions are working on this year's program to continue Coca-Cola's Practice Change adoption program with up to 16 growers. This includes 13 growers in the O'Connell and Proserpine catchments who joined the program in 2021, plus additional growers from the Burdekin and Wet Tropic regions. We trust that growers who have now completed their two years with the program continue on their practice change journey, focussing on improved soil health, farm productivity and environmental outcomes.

Practice Change adoption projects supported by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation in the Pioneer, Plane Creek and Lower Herbert catchments continue to thrive and produce great results for growers and the reef. The 2022 grower intake for the Pioneer and Plane Creek program is already full, so if you know someone who may want to join the project in 2023 please let them know to reserve a spot by contacting Annette at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Mackay. We will also have 10 positions coming up for growers to join the 2022 intake in the Lower Herbert catchment. Megan and Bethany can assist eligible growers with joining the program through HCPSL.

Recent & Future Events

Although it has been necessary to postpone recent events, rest assured that we will continue to monitor COVID-19 restrictions and listen to growers as we plan and deliver future events. We will also continue to produce Practice Fact Sheets and other communication products to keep you all informed, amused and engaged! Please bear with us as we work through these challenging times.

2021 Environmental Outcomes

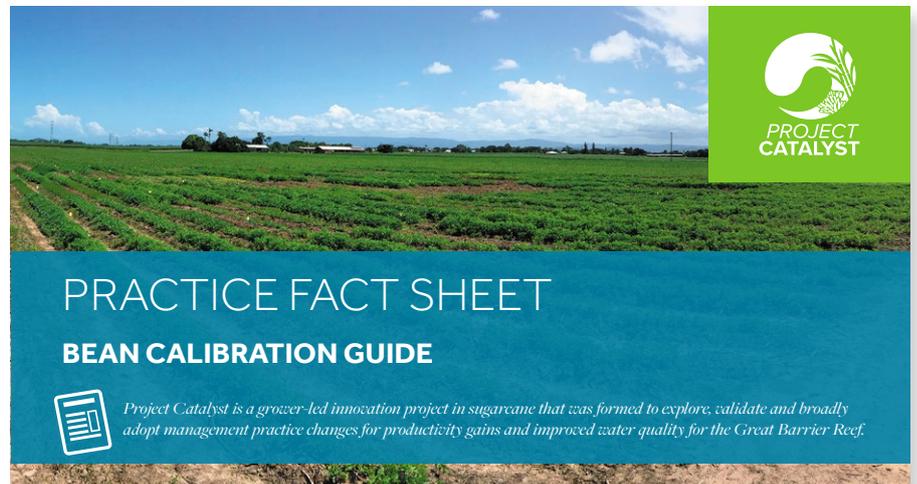
Paddock to Reef reporting is nearly completed for the 2021 season and Project Catalyst's two GBRF practice change adoption programs produced a combined annual Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN) reduction of 30,506 kg, plus additional Fine Sediment and Pesticides reductions. Figures are presented in Table 1.

Location	Service Provider	DIN (kg)	Sediment (kg)	Pesticide (g)
Pioneer and Plane Creek Catchments	Nutrien Ag Solutions	5,268	440,000	132
Lower Herbert Catchment	HCPSL	25,238	81,000	154
Total		30,506	521,000	286

Table 1 - Project Catalyst MWWQP and LHWQP Pollutant Reductions 2021

New Practice Fact Sheet

Our most recent Fact Sheet is a handy calibration sheet for bean planters. Thanks to the HCPSL team for putting this together. You can find this guide here: [Bean Calibration Guide](#)



CALIBRATION WITH RUNNING METRES

10,000 sq metres (1 ha) ÷ row spacing (m) = A (running metres/ha)

A ÷ 100 metres = B

B x amount of seed caught over 100m (kg) OR seconds (see Table 1) = kg/ha

Example:

10,000 sq metres ÷ 1.8 metres = 5,555 running metres/ha

5,555 metres ÷ 100 metres = 55.55

55.55 x amount of seed caught in 40 seconds

55.55 x 0.450 kg = 24.9975 kg

Remember: Planting depth needs to be considered before planting with a bean planter. Seeds should be planted at: 25 - 50mm into the soil profile. Planting too deep or into soil that is too dry may affect germination.

Table 1 - Seconds from KPH over 100 metres

KPH	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SEC	60	51	45	40	36	33	30

Table 2 - Quick guide to running metres per ha based on typical row spacings

Row Width (m)	Running m
1.55	6,666
1.66	6,250
1.65	6,060
1.7	5,882
1.75	5,714
1.8	5,555
1.85	5,405
1.9	5,263



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



Project Catalyst is funded by the partnership between the Australia Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation and WWF-Australia.

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Great Barrier Reef Foundation



Innovation Ideas - Expression of Interest (EOI)

It's been encouraging to receive inspiring submissions for innovation. Many of you have expressed interest in new ideas, so make sure you get those thoughts into an EOI. Funders are keen to support your future in farming. An EOI form has been distributed to all On-Ground Service Providers and is now available on the Project Catalyst website. You can download a copy here: [Project Catalyst EOI Form](#)

Ask your local Project Catalyst partner organisation to help you develop your ideas and complete the form. All ideas submitted through Project Catalyst partners will be added to the library of innovation ideas for funding providers to consider. Please think big, but remember great solutions often come from the simplest ideas.



Project Catalyst Expression of Interest

Innovation Practice Trial Form



PURPOSE: As an industry leading innovation program, Project Catalyst is calling for expressions of interest to showcase ideas and concepts for the next generation of sugarcane farming innovation. This call for proposals is to allow Project Catalyst to build a library of novel, shovel ready innovation ideas to provide to potential funding partners. Proposals should align with Project Catalyst's underlying ethos that best practice farming improves productivity and environmental performance.

ABOUT THIS FORM: By completing this form you are proposing a new Project Catalyst innovation trial that will form part of future innovation funding applications by Catchment Solutions (representing Project Catalyst). Potential funders may select certain proposed innovation ideas and/or trials for further evaluation at their discretion. If you require assistance completing this form, please contact Ross Neivandt on 0408 139 289 or rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au

PLEASE NOTE: Where additional supporting documents are required, please supply as separate attachments in PDF format. You should complete all sections of this form. Once complete, please email this form to rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible for funding under Project Catalyst innovation programs, all innovation partners must be willing to:

- Work with an On-Ground Service Provider (OGSP) that can be approved by Catchment Solutions for trial design and project implementation.
- Keep accurate records and make available data relating to the trial, and consent for this data to be made available to Catchment Solutions for reporting purposes.
- Participate in field days and shed meetings so that growers and other participants in Project Catalyst can visit the trial site.
- Work with an approved On-Ground Service Provider and Catchment Solutions to develop communications material relating to the trial.
- Give permission to Catchment Solutions for images and video footage to be used for project promotion purposes.

Through this call for Expressions of Interest, Project Catalyst is looking to have a number of high-quality trials fully scoped and costed for the consideration of potential funders. These EOIs should aim to document innovation opportunities that have the potential to create relevant practice change outcomes for future uptake across the industry. These precursor documents shall outline the envisaged innovation, its applicability to current farming systems, possibilities for creating positive impacts and potential for scalable adoption. There is no formal closing date for submissions however submissions received by 5:00pm EST Friday 17th December 2021 will be put to potential funders in the first round of Project Catalyst's "Opportunities to Innovate" portfolio.

Grower and Service Provider Visits

Again, we have suspended visits by the Project Coordinator but, as always you are most welcome to call Ross and chat about the project at any time (that's unless he calls you first!). Please make contact if you wish to discuss anything Catalyst, would like to know more about our future innovation opportunities or just want to discuss what's going on with your own project.



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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