

WE ARE AUSTRALIAN SUGARCANE GROWERS



The Australian sugarcane industry is made up of 4,500 farming businesses. They are family farms, partnerships and corporations. The average farm size is 100 hectares.



22 sugar mills process the sugarcane into raw sugar. 85% of the sugar is exported from six bulk shipping ports. Sugar mills also generate 27% of Queensland's renewable electricity.



Around 30 million tonnes of cane is harvested and crushed annually to produce 4.3 million tonnes of raw sugar.



Australian sugar is sustainably produced. 80% of the cane farm area is in the best management practice program, Smartcane BMP.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING

The Australian sugarcane industry is located along 2,000km of the country's east coast in tropical and subtropical regions. Farming standards are verified and continuously improved through a combination of government regulations and industry-led programs.

Modern sugarcane farming practices minimise impacts to the environment while promoting productivity:

- Precision agriculture and satellite guidance systems target chemical and fertiliser applications and reduce carbon emissions
- Sub-surface fertiliser application keeps nitrogen in the crop
- Rotation cropping and planned fallows assist in pest management and improve soil health
- Waterway vegetation and wetland maintenance and restoration programs lift ecosystem health
- Green cane harvesting and mulching the leafy tops retains soil moisture, boosts soil health and controls erosion





SMARTCANE BMP

Smartcane BMP is a voluntary industry program that covers all aspects of farm management.

The core modules are Soil Health and Nutrient Management, Irrigation and Drainage Management and Weeds, Pest and Disease Management. Other modules relate to workplace health and safety and natural systems.

Smartcane BMP growers benchmark their on-farm activities against industry standards and participate in a third-party accreditation audit.

Growers who farm 35% of the sugarcane area (140,686 ha) have been accredited in the program's three core modules. In the Wet Tropics region closest to the Great Barrier Reef, the accreditation rate is 80%.



Smartcane BMP has close alignment with global standards for sustainable sugar including Bonsucro, Vive and ProTerra and is internationally recognised by major food and beverage manufacturers. Chemicals that are not permitted under the Bonsucro standard are not used on Australian sugarcane farms.



MY STORY

Paul Schembri, CANEGROWERS Chairman

I grow 10,000 tonnes of cane each year in partnership with my brother near Mackay, one of Australia's biggest sugar regions.

We take our environmental responsibility and proximity to the Great Barrier Reef very seriously.

Our farms have been accredited under the industry's best management practice program Smartcane BMP for five years.

The soil is the heartbeat of our operation.

To stop sediment loss we have a system which is minimum tillage and keeping the trash or mulch blanket intact between cane rows and our cane is thriving!

www.canegrowers.com.au

MORE INFORMATION:

Dan Galligan CANEGROWERS CEO

P: +61 7 3864 6444 E: info@canegrowers.com.au



CANEGROWERS

