

MODULE 8

PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE SUGAR

YOUR FARM, YOUR WAY Smartcane BMP is a program for you to document and celebrate the way you farm.

What is this about?

We're beginning to see a global shift where consumers are becoming more interested in where their food comes from. They're demanding the materials in the products they buy to be produced sustainably and ethically.

As a result, organisations like Bonsucro, Proterra and Fairtrade have developed ways to certify that the supply chain (growers, millers and refiners) meet global standards. We already know Australian sugar is the best in the world, but we may need to start exporting certified sugar to satisfy some export markets.

It's important to understand that the whole supply chain is certified, so it is only relevant to you if the mill you supply has been certified by Bonsucro, Proterra or an equivalent global standard.

If you're already accredited with Smartcane BMP, you're well on the way to meeting the on-farm requirements of the global standards. We developed this module so you can see what's involved and the extra steps you'll need to take to meet the requirements of a certified supply chain.

Why is it important?

For large manufacturers to show they use sustainable sugar, every part of the production process—from farm to plate—needs to meet the global standards for certification.

We're still in early days, so we don't know how this will affect our industry. It's possible certified sugar may attract a higher price in the short-term, but in the longer term it will likely just be part of doing good business. This has become the case in mill districts that supply the domestic market.

What's next?

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

If you'd like to know more about the global standard for sustainable sugar, you can access Module 8 at smartcane.com.au. The module records your current practices, and the checklist format helps to identify options for further improvement.

Your district facilitator or productivity officer can help you to follow-up on any additional information, training or expert advice.

GET INVOLVED IN SMARTCANE BMP

Smartcane BMP has modules that cover all aspects of the cane farming business. It includes the option to become accredited in the farming practice modules (Modules 1, 2 and 3). Participation is entirely voluntary, and your facilitator can talk with you about what's involved and put you in touch with local growers who are also part of the program.

Contact your district facilitator to get involved.



Turn over for more information

What's in the module?

INDUSTRY STANDARD	ABOVE INDUSTRY STANDARD
BUSINESS ANALYSIS	
Analysing performance and using this information for future financial management	Analysing annual performance in detail by breaking it into key categories like income, expenditure and overheads
LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AND CLEAR TITLE RESOURCES	
Understanding and keeping up-to-date with legal obligations, and demonstrating clear title to land and water resources	
MONITORING PRODUCTION AND QUALITY OF CANE	
Monitoring and comparing cane production with relevant benchmarks, or monitoring cane quality by using estimates of recoverable sugar in the cane	
INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH EXTENSION	
Investing in research and extension for ongoing improvement	
LABOUR MANAGEMENT OBLIGATIONS AND SYSTEMS	
Remaining aware of and abiding by the relevant legal obligations and labour standards	
EMPLOYEE TRAINING, LEARNING AND NETWORKING	
Ensuring all employees receive ongoing training for their jobs	
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Undertaking a risk management process with your workers and develop procedures for all activities that pose a risk	
TRAINING AND SUPERVISION	
Training workers in safe work practices before they begin tasks, supervising work to ensure procedures are being followed, keeping records of training, and reviewing training and safe work practices before different tasks are undertaken	
FIRST AID KITS AND PROVISION	
Ensuring adequate first aid equipment is available at all work locations and staff have appropriate training, and all accidents and injuries are recorded	
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	
Assessing the use of PPE and making sure it matches work conditions and task-specific requirements, it's kept in good condition, and staff understand how to use it and where it's kept	
INCIDENT REPORTING	
Understanding and meeting the legal obligations for reporting incidents under WHSQ and WorkCover	
ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER	
Ensuring all workers have access to plentiful drinking water	
RISKS TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT	
Implementing an environmental impact and management plan that covers key environmental issues	
GREENFIELD EXPANSIONS AND OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS	
Conducting a thorough environmental and social impact assessment when converting significant amounts of land to sugarcane crops, and engaging any stakeholders who may be affected by the change	
MONITORING GREENHOUSE GAS, ACID RAIN EMISSIONS AND PRIMARY ENERGY EFFICIENCY	
Monitoring GHG emissions (less than 40 kg CO ₂ eq per tonne of cane), acid rain (less than 0.15 kg per tonne of cane) and primary energy efficiency consumption (less than 300 MJ per tonne of cane)	