

600 STORIES OF SUCCESS

By Kate Gowdie,
Smartcane BMP Manager

Productivity, profitability and sustainability are matched only by the passion, pride and commitment of the Queensland cane growing community.

The Smartcane BMP Program ended 2020 as it started, achieving yet another major milestone – 600 accredited enterprises.

At the beginning of 2020 there were just shy of 500 accredited cane farming enterprises in Queensland, but it took until early-March to reach the long-anticipated 500-accreditation mark.

The expectation was the pace of accreditations would drop off even further as growers began to prepare for the harvest, while COVID-19 restrictions added another layer of complexity to the process.

However, this was not the case. In fact, far from dropping off, accreditations gained momentum, with a further 50 growers successfully undertaking a Smartcane BMP third party audit to become accredited between March and June.

This was a significant achievement for growers and facilitators, who had to

adjust to COVID-19 restrictions such as meetings outside with social distancing applied, travelling in separate vehicles to view cane blocks, communicating via video conferencing, and sharing of records electronically.

By early August, with the crush in full swing, growers had turned their focus to the 2020 cane harvest and the Smartcane BMP auditors finally got a reprieve.

But, despite a longer than usual crushing period for many districts, growers ended the year with a clear focus back on achieving Smartcane BMP accreditation, with Queensland's 600th enterprise accredited in December.

This achievement means that Smartcane BMP accredited growers are now farming 35% of all Queensland cane land to industry best practice or above.

Productivity, profitability and sustainability are matched only by the passion, pride and commitment of the Queensland cane growing community.

As the success of the program continues to grow, so too does the collective voice of accredited growers who are demonstrating, en masse, that their farming practices have sound agronomic, economic and environmental outcomes and truly deserve their social licence to operate.

NOT YET PART OF THE 600 CLUB?

Contact your local Smartcane BMP facilitator to find out more:
www.smartcane.com.au ■

The Smartcane BMP program is supported by the Queensland State Government until 2022.





Pictured: More than 100 cane farming enterprises were accredited in Smartcane BMP during 2020. (Pg 32) Ruth, Charles and Kevin Stevens - Plane Creek, (top) Christopher, Gerard and Michael Sherry - Mackay, (left) John Kovacich - Innisfail, (above) Sam DiMauro - Tully.