

SMARTCANE BMP NON-CORE MODULES

Have you considered self-assessing your business against the Smartcane BMP non-core modules?

Smartcane BMP accreditation is achieved by meeting or exceeding industry standards (verified through 3rd party auditing) in the program's three core modules – Soil health and nutrient management, Irrigation and drainage management and Weed, pest and disease management. We have featured the three core modules in the recent *Australian Canegrower* magazines (Aug, Sep, Oct). However, you don't have to go to audit to benchmark your business in any of the Smartcane BMP modules.

Any grower, registered with Smartcane BMP, can access the self-assessments for modules 1-8 (core and non-core) enabling them to benchmark their on-farm practices against industry standards.

Let's take a look at modules 4-8.

Module 4 OPTIONAL

Planting and harvesting

Planting success has a major effect on farm profitability for the subsequent 4–5 years. This module covers the industry best practice for planting, including choosing the variety of cane and using clean seed. The module also covers efficient harvesting—many growers are requesting their harvest contractors to vary the harvester set-up and speed to reduce harvest loss and minimise effects on crop regrowth.

Module Content

- Farm Map
- Farm Design
- Variety Management
- Clean Planting Material
- Billet Quality for Planting
- Time of Planting
- Planting
- Loss Minimisation
- Minimising Stool Damage at Harvest
- Block Selection for Harvesting

Module 5 OPTIONAL

Farm business management

Knowing how your business is performing, and which factors are driving your profits, reduces the amount of guesswork around cashflow, profitability and your cost of production. This module covers business performance, succession planning and goal setting.

Module Content

- Legal Obligations and Clear Title to Resources
- Business Goals and Plans
- Financial Risk Management
- Succession Planning
- Monitoring Production and Quality of Cane
- Business and Financial Records
- Cash Flow and Business Analysis
- Business Decision-making
- Investment in Research and Extension
- Labour Management-Obligations and Systems
- Employee Training, Learning and Networking
- Employee Roles and Responsibilities

Module 6 OPTIONAL

Natural systems management

Most farms have wetlands, waterways or riparian zones which are critical to the farm's surface drainage. Some farms also have patches of native vegetation. This module covers ways you can protect the natural systems on your land and how these systems can make contributions to conserving native species.

Module Content

- Mapping and Recognising Natural Features
- Levees, Bunds and Crossings
- Retaining and Connecting Native Vegetation
- Enhancing Habitat Value of Natural Features

Module 7 OPTIONAL

Workplace health and safety

As a business owner, you have legal obligations to minimise the risks you and your workers are exposed to. This module covers these obligations so you know the documentation and processes you need to have in place. And there are many useful resources to help you ensure the risk of injury on your farm is kept as low as possible.

Module Content

- Awareness of Workplace Health and Safety
- Risk Management
- Consultation
- Training and Supervision
- Worker Induction and Records
- Visitor Induction
- Emergency Response Plans
- Remote or Isolated Work
- Child Safety
- First Aid Kits and Provision
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Environmental Hazards
- Incident Reporting

Module 8 OPTIONAL

Pathway to sustainable sugar

This module provides accredited growers with the additional criteria required by global sustainability standards. This module covers the labour management, workplace health and safety and environmental factors you'll need.

Module Content

- Business Analysis
- Legal Obligations and Clear Title Resources
- Monitoring Production and Quality of Cane
- Investment in Research Extension
- Labour Management Obligations and Systems
- Employee Training, Learning and Networking
- Risk Management
- Training and Supervision
- First Aid Kits and Provision
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Incident Reporting
- Access to Drinking Water
- Risks to Natural Resources and the Environment
- Greenfield Expansions and Other Major Projects
- Monitoring Greenhouse Gas, Acid Rain Emissions and Primary Energy Efficiency

CANEGROWERS Business Essentials

The CANEGROWERS Business Essentials program is utilising the self-assessments for modules 1,2,3,5 and 7 to assist program participants to benchmark their on-farm practices in relation to building and maintaining business resilience. The Business Essentials program looks at business risk due to climate, markets and management (including succession planning and workplace health and safety).

Why Self-assess?

Burn Ashburner says "If you are meeting industry Best Management Practice standards, your business is well down the road of being as resilient as it can be. Growers who have undertaken the self-assessment/benchmarking process for non-core modules have used the information to identify issues that need to be addressed to create action plans and risk assessments for their businesses."

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 discuss 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.

Learn More

Learn more about each of the modules by visiting the Smartcane.com.au/modules