

# MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS

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## **Herbert growers embrace opportunity to meet with industry expert at soil workshop and networking forum**

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program (LHWQP), its delivery providers and CANEGROWERS Herbert River recently held a soil workshop and grower forum networking event in Ingham.

The soil workshop was an opportunity for growers in the Herbert to be 'hands on' with an expert and the forum a chance to share knowledge, experiences and celebrate the 2023 season.

A leader in the Australian sugarcane industry specialising in soil health and regenerative farming practices, speaker Simon Mattsson shared his insights into the implementation of plant and biological diversity to create a healthy soil.

Mr Mattson said he is very passionate about agriculture and feels privileged to share his experience with other farmers to try and encourage adoption of practices that enhance biological function.

"Every farmer has certain challenges and quite frequently the weather in Ingham is at the top of the list with wet harvests and a long protracted wet season making it problematic to grow different plant species."

"Plant diversity is essential because it creates biological diversity and there are windows of opportunity for growers regardless of their location and environment to bring more plant diversity into their system.

Program Coordinator for the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Carola Bradshaw said the aim of the workshop and forum was to connect growers with industry experts from other regions like Mr Mattson to share knowledge and form discussions with growers about their soil health and improving farm practices.

"We continually strive for the sugar industry to be more environmentally and financially sustainable and programs like the LHWQP are assisting to give growers the tools, knowledge, and innovation to make changes quicker than they would without the support," said Mrs Bradshaw.

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/3t6VdEI>

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program aims to prevent 140 tonnes of dissolved inorganic nitrogen from entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from the Herbert River catchment each year. Under the Reef 2050 plan to reduce runoff of dissolved inorganic nitrogen the Herbert River is one of the highest priority river catchments. The \$16.2 million program is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with coordination support provided by CANEGROWERS Herbert River.

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Great Barrier  
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