BBIFMAC Manager Report (AGM)  
(November 27th. 2015).

This report covers period from June to Nov 27th 2015. The focus of this report recounts activities relating to past, current and potential projects as well as workshops, seminars, meetings, other work related engagement activities and the 2015 year as a whole.

Staff News.
I am sad to report that we are soon to lose our project officer Sara Simpson, who is moving south for personal reasons. Sara has done wonderfully since she joined us some 18 months ago. We will all miss Sara greatly and genuinely wish Sara all the best and are confident she will do well in whatever position she takes up.

Sugar Cane Reef Water Quality Incentives.
• The Reef Water Quality Incentive Grants have all been spent. BBIFMAC processed 58 grants with 48 being successful. Julie is working through the reviews on the projects, which need to be completed by May 2016. It is not clear if there will be a follow up program, but we will advise of any movements in this area.

Salvinia Weevil Breeding Project
• Dennis is continuing to oversee this project working with only one school at present.
• We have received some devolved grant funding from the NQ Dry Tropics for Dennis to continue the activity with the Airville School to service and distribute weevil larvae when outbreaks occur.
• NQDT's Laura Dunstan has facilitated the expansion of the Salvinia breeding activities to Townsville through the Rotary club.

SRDC Microbiology Trial.
• The SRDC Microbes Pot Trial has now been harvested and the field trials established on Aaron Ahern and Scotty Harnesses farms.
• We have forwarded the last milestone report and the final report will soon be completed
• Under the banner of soil health we have collaborated with NQ Dry Tropics Diana O'Donnell who is also working on a soil health program.

DEH/NQ Try Tropics WQ Adaptive Management Project.
• This project has gained an additional 50K funding to continue for another two years.
• After repairs the TRIOS instrument is being refitted to a new trailer for more effective use following the project.
• We are currently monitoring the catchment with a WQ trailer borrowed from Bronwyn Masters of Mareeba.
**EEGAI Project.**
- This project has been finalized and consultant Steve Attard (Agri Tec Solutions) will be offering services to continue certain components of this project to local irrigators.
- Over 240 farmers have been successfully engaged and feedback from industry has been positive and showed appreciation for the outcomes.
- The Satellite groups have also been engaged with similar results.
- Several topical videos have been produced and are available on the web site.

**Landscape Resilience Project.**
- The Landscape resilience project has been reshaped and will hopefully be able to deliver better outcomes for the environment.
- A new NQ Dry Tropics project officer is Lisa Pullman who was appointed to fill the position left by Chris Kahler.
- BBIFMAC’s Dennis Stubbs are taking a more comprehensive role in engaging farmers with water quality and water quantity leaving the farms.

**Catalyst Trial Water Quality Monitoring.**
- This project supports “Farmasist Consulting” who are managing this Gamechanger Project.
- We are now monitoring the ratoon crop after the plant crop was harvested.

**UQ Greenhouse Gas Sampling.**
- After being contracted to do gas sampling for a greenhouse gas sampling trial at Dalbeg for the University of Queensland, we have moved the trial site to Salters farm in Clare.

**Portable Real Time Water Quality Units.**
- We have now built 5 portable Real Time water Quality Trailer for BPS, DAF and DEH. Two are already commissioned in the Burdekin to assist farmers understand how their farm management practices impact on the quality of water leaving their farms.
- The DEH trailers are commissioned in Silkwood in a similar capacity, working with Maryborough Sugar Factory.
- The single unit funded by DAF is also in the Wet Tropics area.
- BBIFMAC has been provided contracts to install and service this equipment for the end users.

**DERM Reef Catchments Event Water Quality Sampling.**
- BBIFMAC has been recontacted to collect and process water samples from creeks and Rivers in the Burdekin area for the Reef Catchments water quality monitoring team led by Ryan Turner.
- Sites include Barratta Ck., Burdekin River at Sellheim and Burdekin Traffic Bridge, Bowen River.
**Wilmar Mill Mud Trials.**
- BBIFMAC has been contracted by Wilmar to monitor nutrient losses from mill mud trials in the Mona Park area.
- We are now nearing the last runoff events to be monitored.

**HRAP Feasibility Study.**
- BBIFMAC has been contracted by DAF to do a feasibility study for the High Rate Algae Ponds.
- The ponds are proposed by a JCU group to scavenge nitrogen and phosphorus from farm runoff to improve the water quality of the downstream ecosystems.
- The study was submitted by Arwen recently and will be available shortly.

**Federal Reef Trust Tenders for Water Quality.**
- The Federal Govt. has made funds available to improve water quality.
- Unlike previous grants this initiative will be a competitive process and will call on farmers to provide a bid to lower their nitrogen fertilizer rates and yet maintain productivity.
- Farmasist and BPS are promoting the project and any EOI’s will be directed to Luke Malan NQDT.
- BBIFMAC and Steve Attard will assist farmers with the application.

**LEGUMAX Trial.**
- We have very recently been contracted by DSITI to design and initiate a project to maximize the use of legume crops in Sugarcane.
- The collaborating farmer Chris Hesp has agreed to provide land and support for this project.
- Legume planting will occur very soon and soil sampling has already occurred.
- The aims of the project are to identify means whereby the benefits of legume crops are maximized.

**MAXAMM Trial.**
- Wilmar are initiating mill mud trials in the Mackay, Burdekin and Herbert River areas.
- EHP have contracted BBIFMAC to perform water quality monitoring on the Burdekin and Herbert sites.
- We will soon be installing flumes and samplers and lysimeters in all sites two in each area.
- The trial aims to demonstrate the optimum rate and means of application of mill mud and the water quality associated with it.

**Workshops/ Meetings/ opportunities etc.**
The following meetings were attended by BBIFMAC staff in the reporting period.
- Burdekin Cane Extension Group Steering Committee.
- DAFF wetland steering committee
- SRA steering committee meetings
- Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan working group
- RR Team Meetings
- Landcare Meetings
- LMAC meeting
- Paddock to Reef Modelling Meetings
- Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan meetings.
- WCA project steering committee meeting
- RWUE data collection & SC Meetings
- Sugarcane Innovations EXPO.
- Soil & Farm Fertility Workshops
- Reef Guardian Networking Meetings