

Vith ISSCT ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP

Advances and Challenges in Sugar Cane Pest Management
Cairns, AUSTRALIA
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HOST COUNTRY & INSTITUTIONS

Host Country

Australia is one of the world's largest suppliers of raw sugar to the world market, focusing on exporting 85% of its production, particularly on southeast and east Asian markets. Sugarcane is grown mainly in coastal northeast areas, with a small production area in the northwest.

Much of the industry is sandwiched between two World Heritage areas, the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforest – this creates strong environmental pressures to be 'clean and green'.

Major pests are a group of endemic whitegrubs and rodents that pose significant control problems. The industry has developed a set of innovative products and strategies to manage these pests. Australia's proximity to areas of sugarcane diversity means that it is vulnerable to exotic incursions, particularly of stemborers.

Host Institutions

Sugar research, development and extension in Australia entered a new era on 1 September 2003 with the metamorphosis of the **Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations**, a statutory authority of the Queensland Government, into **BSES Limited**, a grower/miller owned company. Whilst the new company is very aware of its 103-year contribution to the industry, corporatisation has given it the opportunity to redefine its direction, mission and goals. This has allowed it to set a new strategic direction, making it more responsive to industry wants and needs.

BSES is in the forefront of provision of entomological services to the industry. It employs three entomologists (Mohamed Sallam - Meringa, Peter Samson - Mackay, Keith Chandler - Bundaberg) and one rodent biologist (Brendan Dyer – Tully), as well as support staff. These form part of BSES' Farming Systems group and have strong links to Biotechnology and Extension staff and to entomologists in other institutions.