Providing the framework for practice change

Building an Australian banana industry environmental Best Management Practices guide

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## Overview of presentation

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What the banana industry wanted

- Banana specific information
- Encourage a ‘minimum’ practice standard
- Demonstrate environmentally responsible
What DAFF wanted

• Improved water quality outcomes
• Specifically targeting banana production in the Johnstone and Tully river catchments
Phase 1 Stakeholder needs

Joint partnership – banana industry & DAFF
Phase 1

Stakeholder needs

Terms of reference:

• Voluntary guideline
• Grower reference group
• Banana specific practices
• Proven practices only
• Align with Freshcare Environmental Code
Phase 2: Methodology

- Step 1 - Literature review
- Step 2 - Grower reference group
- Step 3 - Technical reviewers
- Step 4 – Final Revisions
- Step 5 – Editing & Formatting
Phase 2  
Methodology

- Step 1 - Literature review
- **Step 2 - Grower reference group**
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Phase 2 Methodology

Grower reference group members

1 grower

10 growers

2 growers
Phase 2  Methodology

A participatory approach
Phase 2 Methodology

Considering production practices

- Land preparation
  - Crop eradication
  - Fallow management
  - Site selection
  - Ground preparation
  - Pre-plant fertiliser application/soil improvement

- Growing
  - Planting
  - Irrigation
  - Fertilising
  - Machinery and vehicles
  - Integrated pest, disease and weed control (including animals)
  - Crop husbandry (bagging, desuckering, stringing, etc)
  - Paddock, drain and road maintenance
  - Picking
  - Transport to packing/processing/storage

- Packing
  - Packing
  - Storage and dispatch
Phase 2  Methodology

Considering production practices

Land & Soil
Pesticides
IPDM
Fertiliser & Soil Additives
Water
Biodiversity
Waste
Air
Energy
Fuel
Phase 3 Outputs

System to support Hardcopy
Phase 3 Outputs

System to support Hardcopy & Online abgc.org.au

Banana Best Management Practices Guidelines

Dashboard

Test farm

Checklist Progress 29%

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Phase 3 Outputs

System to support - Step-by-step process

- Self assessment checklist
- Benchmark practices
- Management plan
- Resource
Phase 4 Implementation

Extension to growers

• Training support
  • 1 on 1 and in groups

• YouTube video and PDF both available at abgc.org.au
Key messages  
– overcoming adoption barriers

• Actual partnership – objectives were complimentary, parties positively engaged, resourced through co-investment

• The “Do With” Model of extension & development – a rigorous, participatory approach

• Making it easy to use – using computer technology as a driver for use not a barrier

• Timing – time to do it properly, anticipating the need
Acknowledgements

Funding providers

• Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
• Horticulture Australia Ltd

Thank you to all of the growers and technical specialists who provided input