

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

In conjunction with the sugar industry, BSES is facilitating the implementation of sustainable farming practices.

Sustainable farming is the move by rural industries towards improved management of our natural resources. This has become an important topic over the past decade as more people have become aware that managing our resources will contribute to long-term prosperity.

Sustainable farming practices maintain or improve:

- the economic viability of agricultural production;
- the natural resource base; and
- the environment which is influenced by agricultural activities.

One means of enhancing a stable future for the industry is to develop cane production methods that are economically, socially and ecologically sustainable.

BSES is involved in a range of research, development and extension projects to promote the development of sustainable methods of cane production. Current work includes research into yield decline, the use and fate of fertilisers, irrigation efficiency, green cane harvesting, tillage practices, integrated pest management, genetic engineering, crop rotations and erosion control.

BSES also provides expertise and technical resources for regional initiatives such as Integrated Catchment Management and Landcare.

The adoption of sustainable farming practices by canegrowers is securing the industry's farm resources. BSES will continue to work with growers to achieve this and at the same time, ensure the industry remains economically viable.