

# MEDIA RELEASE

BSES Limited



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## Contribution and dedication to industry recognised

During the 32nd Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference held in Bundaberg last week, winners of the 2010 Sugar Research and Development Corporation's (SRDC) Innovation Awards and the ASSCT Presidents Medal were announced.

### SRDC Innovation award categories and winners:

The **Team Innovation Award** offers a \$12,000 prize and a perpetual trophy. This award recognises the contribution a team has already delivered to provide significant benefit to the Australian sugarcane industry. The BSES Limited's *Smut Buster* team comprising plant breeders and pathologists were the winners for this category. The award is in recognition for the speed in which the *Smut Buster* team developed smut-resistant varieties in response to the sugarcane smut incursion that occurred in Queensland in 2006.

The *Smut Buster* team led by scientists Dr Mike Cox, Dr Nils Berding, Dr Shamual Bhuiyan and Mr Barry Croft were honoured to receive this award. Dr Cox commented that this award belongs to everyone who has played a part in the *Smut Buster* project.

The **SRDC Service Award** offers a \$3,000 prize for individual excellence in the advancement and service of innovative Research & Development (R&D) within the Australian sugarcane industry. This award is given to someone who has shown sustained leadership in influencing innovative R&D through management, policy development and promotional activities. Three people received the Service Award including BSES Principal Scientist Dr Nils Berding and BSES Senior Researcher Keith Chandler for their dedication to research, and long term commitment to the industry.

The **ASSCT Presidents Medal** was awarded to the 'Six Easy Steps' team comprising Dr Bernard Schroeder (BSES), Dr Andrew Wood (Sucrogen), and Dr Phil Moody (DERM). The 'Six Easy Steps' program is an integrated nutrient management tool that enables the adoption of best practice nutrient management on-farm. It consists of: Knowing and understanding your soils; Understanding and managing nutrient process and losses; regular soil testing; adopting soil-specific nutrient management guidelines; checking on the adequacy of nutrient inputs (eg leaf analyses); and keeping good records to modify nutrient inputs when and where necessary.

BSES CEO Eoin Wallis said these achievements are in recognition of the dedication and contribution BSES staff inject to BSES as an organisation and to the Australian sugarcane industry.



**Pictured:** The Smut Buster team made up of BSES staff Dr Nils Berding, Mr Barry Croft, Dr Mike Cox and Dr Shamual Bhuiyan, with the perpetual SRDC Innovation Award.



**Pictured:** One of the SRDC Service Award winners Dr Nils Berding and wife Barbara. The smiles say it all.

Photographs sourced from SRDC.

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**About BSES Limited** - BSES Limited is the leading provider of research, development and extension services to the Australian sugarcane industry.