

3 February 2012

International workshop heading to Townsville

BSES Limited and the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) are hosting the 2012 Agronomy and Agricultural Engineering workshop themed *'Sustainable Sugarcane Production'* in Townsville on 9-14 September 2012.

'These workshops are held every 3 years to allow more informal and in depth discussion between technologists than is possible at the major ISSCT Congress,' said BSES Chief Executive Officer Eoin Wallis.

This will be the 9th Agronomy Workshop. A previous workshop held in Australia in 1997 featured irrigation as the main topic. A combination of agronomy and agricultural engineering topics was proposed for the forthcoming workshop because of the interdependence of these skills in a sustainable production system.

Workshop coordinator and BSES Improved Cropping Systems Program Leader Dr Bernard Schroeder said 'We expect that 60-70 agronomists and agricultural engineers from international sugar industries will attend the workshop. Sessions will also be open to the Australian industry's technologists, farmers, students and Agri-business representatives. Participants need to be / become members of ISSCT – for details please refer to the ISSCT website (issct.intnet.mu/index.html).'

'Expression of interest has already been received from South Africa, Mauritius, Reunion and Tanzania.'

The draft program includes two and a half days of oral and poster presentations and discussions which will feature sessions on:

- Techniques for increasing profitability
- Techniques for sustaining production resources
- Minimising environmental impacts

Dr Schroeder said 'Full day field trips will be organised to the Burdekin and Herbert River districts to feature Australian sugarcane production technology, farm management and approaches to environmental issues.'

Australian sugarcane production technology is a world leader in the areas of field mechanisation, adaptation of production systems for mechanisation, options for and management of nutrients and chemicals and minimising any environmental foot-print.

'BSES has developed an informative website for this event (bses.com.au/issct/index.html), including but not limited to the registration process and online registration options, oral presentations and poster preparations, and how to get to Townsville,' concluded Dr Schroeder.

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