

NQ Dry Tropics

Project Catalyst Partner

Scott Crawford, CEO

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Why are you interested in innovation in agriculture & how important do you believe innovation is for the future of this sector?

NQ Dry Tropics works closely with land managers in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region to encourage best management practices for water quality, production and environmental outcomes.

As the leading natural resource management body for the region, NQ Dry Tropics places a very high importance on innovation to the future of the agriculture sector.

The company's Sustainable Agriculture innovations program addresses this issue, providing innovative farmers with opportunities to trial their practice ideas with the assistance of technical experts.

NQ Dry Tropics Sustainable Agriculture projects have contributed to a significant shift in management practices across the region's agriculture sector. Focusing on the reduction of nutrient, sediment and pesticide losses off farm, NQ Dry Tropics, partners and industry have achieved significant results in reducing the impacts of agriculture on the Great Barrier Reef. These outcomes wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of project partner Farmacist.

To continue these achievements, the innovations program provides the opportunity to identify and investigate potential practices which contribute to these outcomes while also addressing economic and environmental challenges.

"With a thriving cane industry and more than 650 canegrowers in the region, NQ Dry Tropics sees innovation as key to enabling large scale, high impact, positive change."

Why have you chosen to be involved in Project Catalyst and what benefits do you perceive?



NQ Dry Tropics has been working with farmers to better manage their natural resources for more than 10 years. Project Catalyst provides a valuable opportunity to contribute further to the promotion of better practices for environmental, water quality and production outcomes.

There are many forward thinking farmers in the Burdekin Dry Tropics agriculture industry who actively trial new and innovative practices. Project Catalyst offers these innovators the opportunity to work with technical experts, collaborate with like minded farmers, share ideas and experiences and, most importantly, affect change.

The project not only fosters local collaboration, but provides the opportunity for pioneering farmers from other regions to share ideas and experiences with innovation on their farm.

NQ Dry Tropics sees landholder access to technical advice and guidance as a major benefit to our organisation's involvement in Project Catalyst, allowing trials to be a measured and replicated in order to drive innovation beyond individual farms. This benefits the entire industry.

Overall, Project Catalyst has the potential to drive industry-scale changes through trialed and proven practices. This is critical to the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the cane industry as a whole.