

What is the Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative?

Project Uplift is a principal partnership between Growers and MSF Sugar that aims to increase profit and resilience of the sugar industry and the Great Barrier Reef. The Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative is the first activity of this partnership and works with the Federal Government Reef Trust to support Growers in the adoption of the SRA Farming System. There are three components to this support:

1. Interest free loans provided for the purchase and modification of machinery required for the adoption of the SRA Farming System;
2. Cash grants of 50% for farm re-design and drainage improvements required for the adoption of the SRA Farming System; and
3. Agronomy support from the MSF Sugar Agronomy Team.

The SRA Farming System

The SRA Farming System is the farming system that was recommended by the SRA (BSES) Sugar Yield Decline Joint Venture research program. It has four components:

1. Controlled Traffic;
2. Minimum Tillage;
3. Legume Break Crops; and
4. Green Cane Harvesting and maintaining the Trash Blanket.

This system has been proven to improve soil health and reduce variable costs. Gains in operational efficiency may result from the system. Positive reef outcomes include improved NUE, sediment and chemical abatement.

Who is eligible?

Growers who hold a current cane supply agreement with an MSF Sugar Mill and have not adopted all the components of the SRA Farming System. Groups of growers and Growers in common harvesting groups are encouraged to apply however individual growers are also eligible.

Farms where drainage water does run to the Great Barrier Reef catchment are eligible for Farm Re-Design and Drainage Grants. This is because these grants are funded by the Federal Government Reef Trust. All MSF growers are eligible for interest free loans from MSF Sugar Ltd.

How to apply?

Growers should contact a member of the MSF Sugar Agronomy Team. An agronomist will assist in formulating a Project Uplift Farming Systems Initiative Implementation Plan. Team members to contact

1. Maryborough contact John Tomlin (0409114542) and Barry Callow (0487017811).
2. South Johnstone contact John Tomlin (0409114542) and Michael Porta (0427620316).
3. Mulgrave contact Nigel Young (0439181018) and Noel Wright (0419975591).
4. Tablelands contact Nigel Young (0439181018) and Graham Cripps (0448341415).