Minutes of Central Regional Variety Committee meeting

25th March 2022

Agenda Item	**Meeting opened at 09:00 am**
1	**Welcome by George Piperidis**

General introduction, discussed Agenda for the day, and presented disease and floc trends for the Central region.

Roll call, Apologies and Declaration of Voting Members:

ATTENDEES:		**APOLOGIES:**	
Ken Griffin	Mackay Sugar (Voting member)	Kerry Latter	CANEGROWERS
Jay Venning	Wilmar (Voting Member)	Joseph Borg	CANEGROWERS
Sam Pocock	Wilmar (Voting Member)	Marcus Reiners	Mackay Sugar
Malcolm Langdon	PCPSL (Voting Member)	Paul Stuart	Mackay Sugar
Frank Perna	CANEGROWERS (Voting Member)	Peter Hackett	Grower
Tony Large	Grower Proserpine (Voting Member)		
Chris Tom	SRA		
George Piperidis	SRA		
Dylan Wedel	SRA		
Shamsul Bhuiyan	SRA		
Rob Magarey	SRA (via Teams)		
Jason Eglington	SRA		
Frank Millar	Sugar Services Proserpine		
Anthony Schembri	MAPS		
Andrew Dougan	MAPS		
Steve Fordyce	ACFA and MAPS (Chair)		
Kevin Borg	CANEGROWERS Plane Creek		
Damian Baxter	PCPSL		
Kirili Lamb	CANEGROWERS		

2 RVC Governance

- Voting Membership consists of two representatives (a grower and a miller) from each of the 3 Central districts (Proserpine, Mackay, Plane Creek).
- A unanimous vote is required for a variety release.
- A majority vote is required for progression through the breeding program (MaxProp, Accel, etc).
- Consideration be given for a formal milling trial if a unanimous decision cannot be reached.
- The Chair does not have a casting vote and is considered a facilitator role.

Motion from the Chair on governance and declaration of the 2022 Regional Variety Committee:

Moved: Tony Large Seconded: Mal Langdon
Carried

3 Minutes of previous meeting

Motion from the Chair that the minutes of the previous meeting held in 2021 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Moved: Tony Large Seconded: Frank Perna
Carried

Business arising from previous minutes

None arising.

4 Varieties (Chris Tom)

a) Introduction

- New FAT site established in 2021 at Calen, J. Simpson's farm.
- In 2022 planning for a FAT site at Rosella, S. Orr's farm.
- Acknowledged grower collaborators and staff who have helped prepare data for RVC meeting.

b) Review of Variety decisions 2021:

Clone/Variety	Series	2020 Status	2021 RVC Decision
SRA27	2013 & 2016	Accelerate	Discard
SRA20$^{\Phi}$	2014 & 2018	FAT_R	Accelerate
QS07-7049	2014 & 2018	FAT_R	Accelerate
QC09-304	2015 & 2018	FAT_R	Discard
QC09-714	2015 & 2018	FAT_R	Accelerate
SRA11$^{\Phi}$	2020	Hold	Hold
SRA26$^{\Phi}$	2020	Hold	Hold

c) New FAT_Ts from 2020 FATs presented:

FAT_T	Clone	STATUS	FP	MP	Smut	Pachy	LS	TCH_diff	CCS_diff	rEGV
1	SRA32	FAT	QN80-3425	QN86-2168	I	I	R	15	-0.3	0.7
2	QC14-1033	FAT	QS02-2046	QN02-386	R	R		3	0.5	0.7
3	QC14-625	FAT	Q233	QS93-2188	R	R		7	0.0	0.7
4	KQ13-2528	FAT	QN80-3425	CP74-2005	I-R	R	R	5	0.3	0.6
5	QC14-1584	FAT	QN87-2109	QC90-353	R	R		2	0.4	0.6
6	QC12-765	FAT	Q238	Q240	I	R		7	0.0	0.6
7	QA11-1387	FAT	Q208	MIDA	I	R	R	2	0.4	0.6
8	QK12-1434	FAT	CP75-1322	QC90-353	R	R	I	1	0.4	0.5
9	QC14-1422	FAT	Q226	QS00-2191	I	R		3	0.3	0.5
10	SRA26	FAT	QN97-2122	Q146	R	R	R	-4	0.7	0.4
11	SRAW33	FAT	Q208	CP74-2005	R	I-R	R	-1	0.4	0.3
12	QC14-1505	FAT	QC90-353	QS02-1032	I	R		-2	0.4	0.3
13	SRA11	FAT	QN86-2139	QC90-289	R	R	R	6	-0.3	0.3
	KQ228*	STD	QN80-3425	CP74-2005	I	I	R	0	0.4	0.3
	SRA9*	STD	QN81-289	Q166	I-R	R	R	6	-0.4	0.2
	Q208*	STD	Q135	QN61-1232	I-R	I	R	4	-0.1	0.2
14	QC14-1245	FAT	QC02-929	QS01-6025	R	R		0	0.0	0.1
15	QC14-801	FAT	QS99-482	QC03-6807	R	R		-6	0.5	0.1
	Q240*	STD	QN81-289	SP78-3137	R	I	R	1	0.0	0.0
	QA12-1897	FAT	Q208	N29	I-R	R	R	-12	0.9	0.0
16	QS09-7559	FAT	QC82-663	Q205	R	I-R	R	0	-0.1	0.0

- Good promising clones coming through from the Central seedling program with combination of smut and Pachy resistance.

d) FAT_Rs to Accelerate 2017/2020 series:

Clone	TCH	CCS	FIB	Pa	Sm	RR	LS	Fj	Mos	Floc
QA08-2979	1	0.5	1.4	R	I-R		R	R	R	OK
QS10-7357	-3	0.2	-1.0	R	I		I	I-R		OK
QS10-7131	4	-0.4	0.4	R	I		R	R		OK

Clone/Variety	Discussion	Committee Decision
QA08-2979 2017 & 2020 2021 Status: FAT_R	Summary: • Good TCH and CCS • Resistant: Pachy, Leaf Scald, Fiji Mosaic • Pending for Red rot • Fibre quality and floc OK Appears shorter in the field trials. Recommend to hold and wait for 1R data from 2020 series and continue to gather information from observation plots.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold**
QS10-7357 2017 & 2020 2021 Status: FAT_R	Summary: • Good CCS slightly down on TCH • Resistant: Pachy • Intermediate-Resistant: Fiji • Intermediate: Smut & Leaf Scald • Pending for Red rot • Fibre quality and floc OK Good in plant cane but falling away in ratoons. Some smut observed in the field Recommend to hold and wait for 1R data from 2020 series and continue to gather information from observation plots.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold**
QS10-7131 2017 & 2020 2021 Status: FAT_R	Summary: • Good TCH slightly down on CCS • Resistant: Pachy, Leaf Scald, Fiji • Intermediate: Smut • Pending for Red rot • Good for floc, Fibre quality pending Fibre quality: male parent is QC90-289 Recommend to hold and wait for 1R data from 2020 series and fibre quality data, and continue to gather information from observation plots.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold**

e) FAT_Rs to Accelerate 2018/2020 series:

Clone	TCH	CCS	FIB	Pa	Sm	RR	LS	Fj	Mos	Floc
QC12-1121	-1	0.3	0.3	R	I-R		R	I-S		*
QC12-803	1	-0.1	0	R	R		R	R		*
QC12-174	0	-0.2	0.4	R	R		R	R		*

Clone/Variety	Discussion	Committee Decision
QC12-1121 **QC12-803** **QC12-174** 2018 & 2020 2021 Status: FAT_R	Summary: • All 3 clones are lacking disease, floc and fibre quality data. Recommend to hold and wait for 1R data from 2020 series, diseases, floc and fibre quality data, and continue to gather information from observation plots.	 **Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold all 3**

f) General discussion on floc:

High levels of floc would have an income impact for the mills. A floc rating of 5 or higher is a cause for concern. Question around if a variety is released with a high floc rating, can the RVC recommend that it is burnt before sending it to the mill? The concern would be the social issues if we revert to burning cane, and it is not clear whether burning cane is effective in managing floc levels.

g) Accelerated to MaxProp:

Clone/Variety	Discussion	Committee Decision
SRA20$^{\Phi}$ 2014 & 2018 2021 Status: Accelerated	Summary: • Good TCH low CCS • Resistant: Pachy, Smut, red rot, mosaic • Intermediate LS Fiji • Fibre quality and floc OK Meeting discussion for SRA20$^{\Phi}$ was around providing further information from other regions on it's performance. In the southern region, seed sales of SRA20$^{\Phi}$ dominated in 2021. Request for fibre quality information	

		from all regions (Central data provided at meeting). Not currently in observation plots. Recommend to hold at Accelerate and gather information from observation plots.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold at ACCELERATE**
	QS07-7049 2014 & 2018 2021 Status: Accelerated	Summary: • High TCH low CCS • Resistant: Smut, Pachy, red rot, leaf scald, mosaic • Intermediate: Fiji • Fibre quality and floc OK Discussion was centred around the low CCS, however not seen as a major concern because in the commercial environment CCS can be managed. The real positive for QS07-7049 is its TCH results and its potential to do well on poorer soils. Performance in trial and observation plots has been good. Request for fibre quality information from all regions (Central data provided at meeting). Recommend to progress to MaxProp.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **MaxProp**
	QC09-714 2015 & 2018 2021 Status: Accelerated	Summary: • Good CCS early, slightly below TCH • Resistant to Smut, Pachy, LS & Fiji, • Falling away in ratoons Recommend discard due to the average results in 2018 series and falling away in ratoons.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **DISCARD**
	Action: GP to provide all fibre quality information for SRA20$^{\Phi}$, QS07-7049, and SRA26$^{\Phi}$ to committee *(information sent to committee by email 28/03/2022).*		
5	**Varieties from other regions (George Piperidis)**		

Clone/Variety	Discussion	Committee Decision
SRA26$^{\Phi}$ 2020 FAT 2021 status: FAT	Summary: • Mod/high yield across a wide range of soil types in the North • Resistant to Pachy, Smut, LS, red rot • Floc similar to Q200, KQ228	

	• Fibre within the box • No apparent milling issues • Reliable germinator • Semi-prostrate early growth • Preliminary indication suggests that SRA26Φ has RSD sensitivity similar to Q253Φ • Planted in 2020 Central FATS Discussion: Plant crop data from 2020 Central FATs was competitive with Q208Φ and SRA9Φ. Discussion about SRA26Φ RSD sensitivity; new varieties are now being screened for RSD sensitivity, for SRA26Φ this is from plant crop data. RSD is a ratooning disease, so more information needs to be gathered. Important to note that no varieties or parents are resistant to RSD. Request for fibre quality information from all regions (Central data provided at meeting). 13,000t has been milled in the North with no issues. It is dominating seed sales in the north, second only to Q208Φ. SRA26Φ looks good on all observation plots, has good resistance to major diseases and is a consistent performer across a range of soil types. Susceptible to mosaic but this is not a concern for Central region because it requires a vector for transmission and that insect is not found here. Recommend to approve for release. PCK and PRO have sufficient material to release in 2022. MAPS to release to growers in 2023.	**Vote: Unanimous** **Decision:** **RELEASE**
SRA11Φ 2020 FAT 2021 status: FAT	Summary: • High TCH Moderate CCS • Maintains productivity in ratoons • Fast reliable germination • Resistant: Pachy, Smut • Intermediate: red rot • Prefers late harvest • Potential fibre issue; low impact, high % short fibre, low fibre content Discussion: MAPS facilitated a milling trial in 2021 with approximately 200 t. The block was burnt prior to harvest and yielded 177 TCH on a farm that averages 85 TCH. CCS was down 3 units on the daily average but this was	

	considered to be due to lodging and heavily affected by YCS. Other block on the same farm were also heavily affected by YCS and were down on CCS. Cane was sent to Farleigh mill, Mill#1 speed and chest pressure dropped as the material was fed through. Boiler pressure reduced during the estimated period of influence with a possible increase in moisture of bagasse. Noted that 40,000t has been processed through Isis mill and strong seed sales indicates rapid adoption and growth. Bundaberg has not milled commercial quantities. Rocky Point has milled just under 1,000t SRA11$^{\Phi}$, and NSW just over 2000t and they are supporting approved seed sales of SRA11$^{\Phi}$. MAPS have propagated more SRA11$^{\Phi}$ for further milling trials in 2022. Approximately 500 t will be sent to MSL from 2 growing sites. Mackay sugar would have to make recovery compromises to process SRA11$^{\Phi}$, and Wilmar would like to have a presence during the milling. Recommend to HOLD and gather more information from FAT trials, observation plots and milling trials.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold**
SRA32 2020 FAT 2021 Status: FAT	Summary: • Very High TCH and Fibre • Moderate CCS • Intermediate for smut, pachy, fij and red rot • Resistant to leaf scald • Late season sugar • Floc and fibre quality ok Discussion: SRA32 discussion was around the fact that we have not seen a lot of it in this region. It is still early days and because there are good varieties recently released and coming through the program now, there is no need to fast track SRA32 and it should not be recommended to growers at this stage.	**Vote: Majority Decision:** **Hold**

	Recommend to HOLD and gather more information from FAT trials and plant into observation plots.	
WSRA17Φ 2015 FAT 2021 Status: FAT_D	The meeting was updated on the 1 t of WSRA17Φ from the Burdekin that was planted in the Proserpine area in 2020. It has been further propagated in 2021 in preparation for a milling trial and observations on it's performance in difficult soil types. There was concern expressed at the meeting about it's intermediate ratings for smut and pachy, and the effect of another smut intermediate variety on the spore pressure in the region.	

Summary of varieties from other regions and where they are in the Central program

Variety	Release Status	Information from origin of Release			Disease and milling traits					C FAT Info		Comments
		TCH	CCS	rEGV	Sm	Pa	LS	Floc	% Fib	C FAT Series	C rEGV	
SRA11Φ (QS05-6092)	Southern 2018	7	0.2	10.8	R	R	R		-1.3	2021	10.26	
SRA15Φ (QS06-9119)	Northern 2018	3	0.2	10.4	I-S	I-R	R		1.0	2019	10.1	SMB 2009
WSRA17Φ (KQ08-2180)	Burdekin 2018	6	-0.4	9.5	I-S	I	R		**0.7**	2015	9.8	Sm Pa
SRA23Φ (QA07-2330)	Burdekin 2019	-3	0.0	9.8	R	I	R		**0.2**	2015; 2021	10.2	FAT_R
WSRA24Φ (QA05-2486)	Herbert 2019	6	-1.1	9.6	R	R	R		**-1.1**	n/a	n/a	2021 FATProp
SRA26Φ (QN08-2282)	Northern 2019	5	0.2	10.8	R	R	R		**-0.5**	2020	10.38	2020 Obs Plots
SRA28Φ (QS08-8776)	Northern 2020	5	0.2	10.6	I-R	R	R		-0.7	2015	9.9	2021 FATProp
SRA29Φ (QS08-9474)	Southern 2020	4	0.0	10.4	I	R	R		-0.5	CAT_D		SMB 2010
SRAW30Φ (KQB07-24815)	NSW 2yr 2020	20	0.6	11.4	R	R	R			2021		3 trials x 1 rep
SRA31Φ (QC05-1281)	Herbert 2021				R	R	R			2011; 2014	9.9	2018 Acc; 2019 FAT_D; 2021 FATProp
SRA32 (QS09-8404)	Burdekin 2021	16	-0.8	10.2	I	I	R		1.0	2020	10.6	SMB 2011; FAT_T
SRAW33	Southern 2021				R	I-R	R			2020	10.4	FAT_T
SRA34Φ	NSW 2021				I	R	R			2019	9.5	FAT_H
SRA35Φ	NSW 2yr 2021				I-S	I-R	R			2009; 2012	9.7	FAT_D

General discussion:

SRA23Φ: Following on from previous RVC and prod board discussion, SRA23Φ was propagated in 2020 and planted into FATs and observation plots in 2021.

SRA28Φ: In 2021 FATProp for planting in 2022 FATs. Expected to be HCPSL biggest selling clean seed variety.

SRA31Φ: Recovered for further testing in 2022 FATs. Good disease profile.

SRA34Φ: In Central 2019 FATs; approved for release in the Burdekin at the 2022 RVC.

In general, varieties released in other regions will have plant crop data from Central region

trials at the year of release.

Summary of 2022 RVC Decisions:

Clone/Variety	Series	2021 Status	2022 RVC Decision
SRA20(ф)	2014 & 2018	Accelerate	Hold at Accelerate
QS07-7049	2014 & 2018	Accelerate	MaxProp
QC09-714	2015 & 2018	Accelerate	Discard
SRA26(ф)	2020	Hold	Release
SRA11(ф)	2020	Hold	Hold

6 Review and Update on Recommended lists (George Piperidis)

Note: Review of the Recommended Lists was not conducted in the 2021 RVC meeting.
Thresholds for disease in the Central region:

- Smut > 6
- Leaf Scald > 7

Decisions made at 2020 RVC:

Variety	Current Status	Committee Decision
Q138	Planting and Ratooning	Leave, review in 2021 (verbal agreement)
Q209	Ratooning only	Leave, review in 2021 (verbal agreement)
Q171	Ratooning only	Remove from list (verbal agreement)
Q177	Ratooning only	Leave, review in 2021 (verbal agreement)
Q246	Ratooning only	Leave, review in 2021 (verbal agreement)
Q96	Planting and Ratooning	Remove from both lists (verbal agreement)
Q124	Planting and Ratooning	Leave, was planted in 2019 (verbal agreement)
Q135	Planting and Ratooning	Leave, was planted in 2019 (verbal agreement)
Q212	Planting and Ratooning	Remove from both lists (verbal agreement)
Q247	Planting and Ratooning	Leave (verbal agreement)
Q249	Planting and Ratooning	Leave (verbal agreement)
Q250	Planting and Ratooning	Leave (verbal agreement)
Q252	Planting and Ratooning	Leave (verbal agreement)

For review:

- Q138 – Planting and Ratooning
- Q209; Q177; Q246 – Ratooning Only

% cane sent to mills in 2021:

ApprovalType	Variety	Sm	Pa	LS	RR	FLG	MKY	PCK	PRO
Planting and Ratooning	Q124	I-S	I-S	R	I-S	I-S	0.01		0.41
	Q135	I	I	R	S	R	0.08	0.05	0.04
	Q138	S	R	R	I-S	R	2.07	4.47	0.51
	Q183	I-R	R	I	I	R	14.33	30.77	20.78
	Q190	I	R	R	R	R	0.07	0.05	0.45
	Q200	R	I	R	R	I	0.09	0.58	0.32
	Q208	I-R	I	R	R	I-S	31.20	27.06	26.44
	Q226	R	I-R	R	R	R	0.09	0.17	0.37
	KQ228	R	I	R	R	I	2.41	3.72	5.07
	Q232	R	I	R	I-R	I	0.95	1.55	4.33
	Q238	R	R	R	I-R	I-R	0.66	2.09	1.18
	Q240	R	I	R	R	I-S	24.21	15.67	31.11
	Q242	I	R	R	I-R	R	2.66	4.42	3.45
	Q247	I	R	R	R	R	0.03	0.26	1.18
	Q249	R	I	R	I-R	R	0.04	0.02	0.28
	Q250	R	I-S	R	I	S	0.11	0.41	0.00
	Q252	I	I	R	R	I	0.82	2.43	0.99
	Q253	R	R	R	I	S	4.31	3.37	1.12
	SP80-1816	I-S	R	R	R	R	6.75	1.46	0.94
	SRA9	I-S	R	R	I-R	I	7.52	0.64	0.59
	SRA12	I	R	R	I	I	0.63		
	SRA13	I	R	R	R-I	R	0.27	0.05	0.04
	SRA21	R-I	I	R	I	R	0.65		
	SRA22	R-I	R	R-I	I	R			
Ratooning only	Q177	R	S	R	I-R	I-R			0.06
	Q209	S	R	R	I-S	I-R	0.02	0.03	
	Q246	R	I-R	R	S	I-S		0.04	

General discussion and decisions:

Q177, Q209, Q246: Allow to fade out, re-visit in 2023

Q138: Still grown in significant quantities under special approval for particular soil types. Leave on Planting and Ratooning list – **Unanimously agreed**

Others:

Q135: Not being planted any more, does get red rot and susceptible to Pachy. Remove from Planting and Ratooning list and place on Ratooning Only list – **Unanimously agreed**

Q124: Insignificant area of Q124, not being planted. Remove from Planting and Ratooning list and place on Ratooning Only list – **Unanimously agreed**

7	**Other business arising**
	Chlorotic Streak: Chlorotic Streak (CS) ratings are important as a management tool. Is SRA looking at developing a screening method to test varieties for CS? There are no routine CS resistance trials at this stage. A field trial reliant on natural infection was attempted in 2021 in the Northern region, however the trial was compromised by significant waterlogging and is a write off. We need to develop a plan to prioritise research funding to complete the development of a controlled trial methodology for routine CS screening.
8	**Thank you and close of 2022 RVC meeting**
	George thanked Chris and the Prod Boards for working together to achieve these outcomes. Steve thanked SRA and the RVC for their time and the decisions made today. Steve to return as Chair of the RVC in 2023. Meeting closed 12:15 pm.