

## Growing the 'Next Crop' of leaders in the Australian sugarcane industry

Australian sugarcane growers are invited to stand up and nominate themselves, or their peers, to participate in a brand new leadership development program.

Called **Next Crop**, the program is an investment by Sugar Research Australia (SRA).

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that developing future industry leadership has been identified as a priority through SRA's five-year strategic plan and via ongoing engagement between SRA and the industry.

"To continue to grow and prosper, our industry needs to increase our leadership capacity. This is more important than ever as the industry faces headwinds from depressed global sugar prices and other challenges," Mr Fisher said.

He said Next Crop is specific for the Australian sugar industry and will help emerging leaders build their skills and contribute to future leadership roles, delivering a benefit for the whole industry.

In its first year, the program is being targeted at sugarcane growers, following industry consultation that there is a priority need to further build skills within this sector of the industry.

"The future of our industry relies on ensuring we continue to develop and encourage new leaders to participate, collaborate, and have their voices heard. We want to increase the pool of people who are just as comfortable in meetings at local, regional or industry levels as they are in their own shed," Mr Fisher said.

The program is calling on growers of all backgrounds, ages and gender to nominate.

"If you've ever wanted to step up to a leadership role, and believe you have the potential to do so, this is an opportunity to learn more about what makes you tick as a leader."

Next Crop is now open. SRA is seeking nominations from growers who are keen to build their leadership skills and take part in this innovative initiative. To learn more, visit [www.nextcropleaders.com](http://www.nextcropleaders.com).

Applications close on January 31.

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