

# Success with soybeans and sugarcane



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The Southern Canelands (Bundaberg/Isis/Maryborough) region has had a long history of sugarcane production

Like all sugarcane regions the soils under long-term sugar production experienced a loss in their productive capacity = Yield Decline.

1993 SYDJV was formed in 1995 first field trials were established in the region.

Dr Allan Garside will expand on this.



**SUGAR YIELD  
DECLINE  
JOINT VENTURE**



## What is the effect of breaking the sugarcane monoculture?

**Cane responded  
strongly to the break  
crop**

It is this response to breaking the monoculture that sowed the seeds of a soybean industry in the sugarcane farming system



**Continuous cane**

**Cane after breaks**



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The white fly situation would be exacerbated with overzealous such

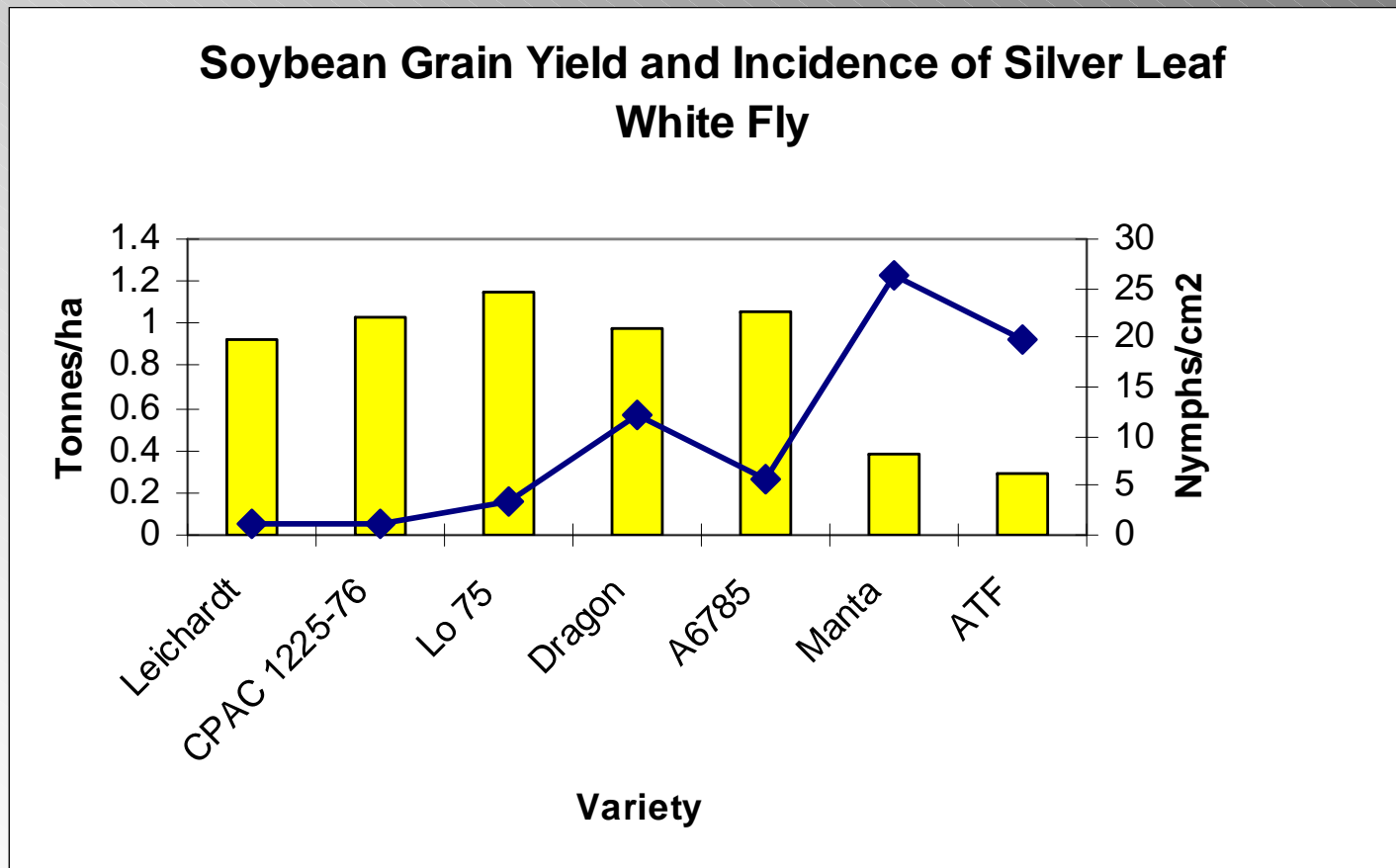
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Later the Women in Sugar Group were able to access funding to allow the conduct of 2 day workshops to fine tune IPM in coastal farming systems

It appeared that varietal selection may play a role in managing White fly



But the CSIRO release of the White Fly parasitoid appears to have been extremely effective in controlling the pest

Two of the greatest impediments to the expansion of the soybean industry in the southern canelands were:

- Lack of grain machinery / infrastructure
- Agronomic support (one on one help)

The Grain in Cane group was formed with the view of resolving the agronomic support issue



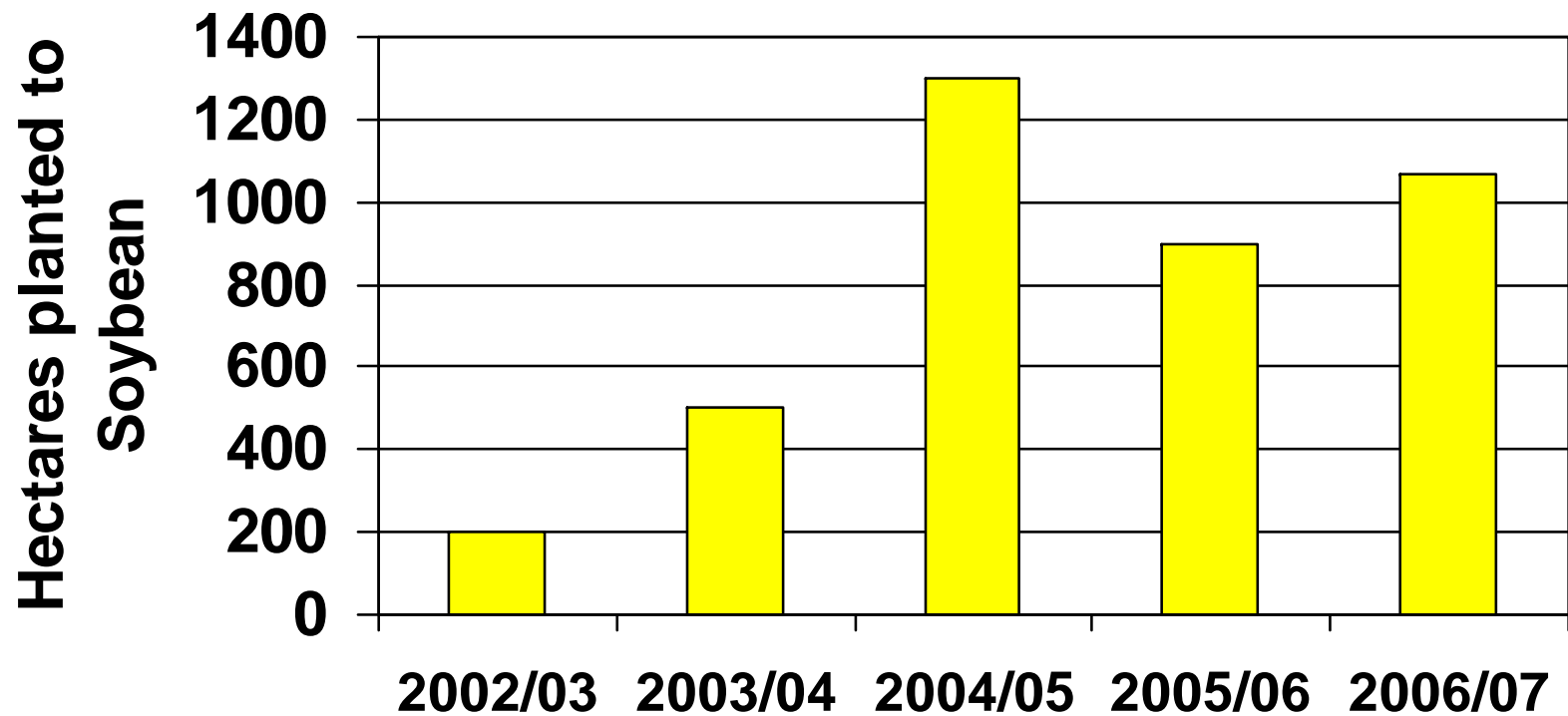
The group was successful at securing funding and Canegrowers Grain in Cane was established and Matt Leighton appointed to the position. Resolving the agronomic support issue



All sugar mills within the Southern canelands embraced grain legume rotations in their strategic plans.

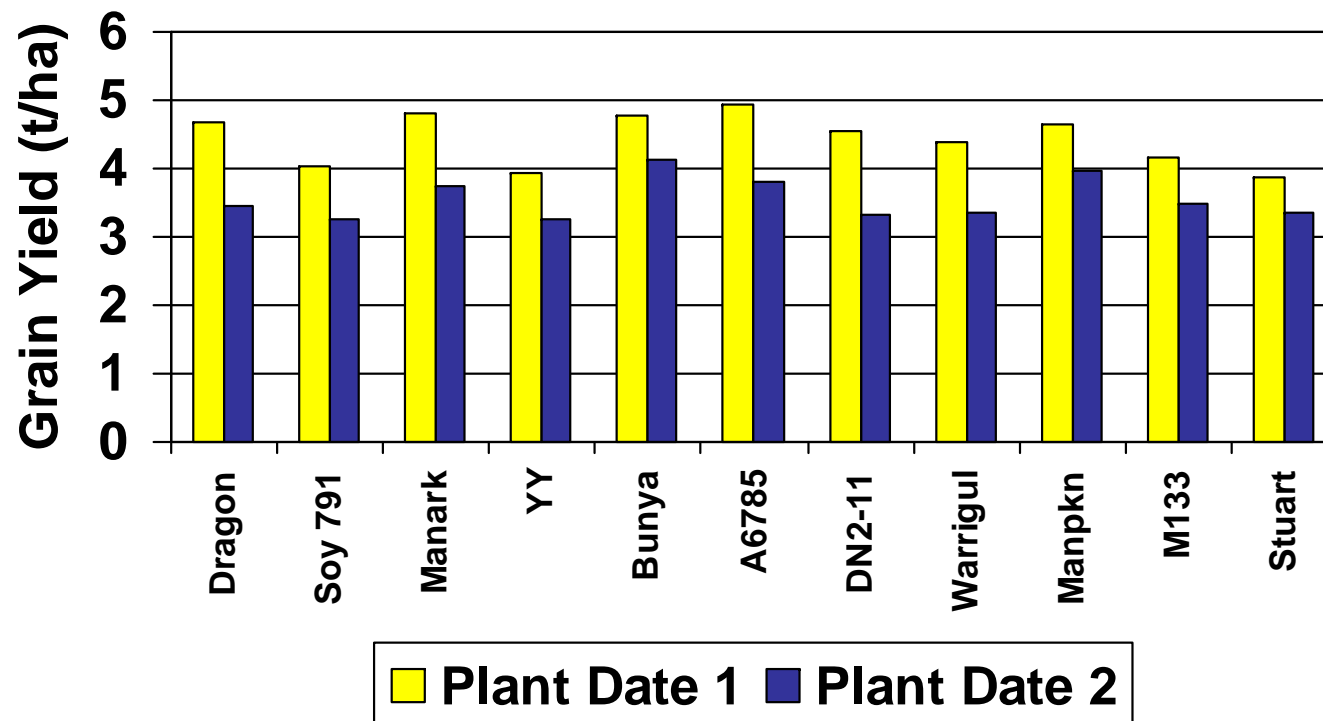
One such example is the Isis Target 100 group; they offered co-ordination of planting and harvesting of soybeans through the services of Judy Plath. Resolving the infrastructure issue

## Soybean Production in the Bundaberg/Isis region



Field trial evaluation of current and emerging soybean varieties in our coastal environment, ensures that the local industry stays up to date. (GRDC National soybean improvement program)

## Soybean Variety Evaluation



The development of a successful soybean industry in a sugarcane farming system has been a challenging yet rewarding task.

It has been based on sound science and in this session we will hear from:

Dr Allan Garside to describe the role of legumes in the sugarcane farming system.

Local Farmers: Elton Petersen (Maryborough) and Bruce Peterson (Childers) to describe how soybeans fit within their farming operations

Women in Sugar group (Jenny Rule, Sandra Webb and Dianne Bush) will discuss the Soybean IPM workshops