



# Why Bother with IPM?

Geoff & Maureen McCarthy

---

Tracking the shift from cane monoculture to legume rotation using IPM in soys.

# Five years ago

---

- Monoculture
- P.O.R.P's
- Losing money

# BSES yield decline articles

---

- Soys way to go
- GVB green vegie bugs elusive
- Sprayed once
- Must do better

# H E L P ! ! !

---

- Matt Leighton & Hugh Brier
- Purchased run down cane farm
- Needed \$\$\$\$ quick

# IPM – THE ONLY WAY



- Must monitor anyway
- Know your pests/beneficials
- Monitor systematically
- Record findings
- Thresholds



# Sowing to Flowering

---

- Helis & Loopers
- Warning signs
- Be observant

# Heliothis

---

- Enemy No 1. Don't underestimate!
- Eats profits
- Virus on small larvae

# Team Effort

- Regular checks
- Different sites
- Variability



# Flowering to Maturing

---

- Grubs and pod suckers
- White Fly
- Hot spots
- Thresholds/spraying
- Costs minimized
- Environment protected

# Bug checking course



- Goodies and baddies
- Beat sheet
- Recording
- Bug book
- Field walks

# What now?

- All edible
- Export quality
- Top producing cane farm
- Reduced inputs
- Reduced cane pathogens



# Conclusions

---

- Legumes increase overall production
- High yields, high quality & IPM
- Minimize chemical costs, maximize profit
- Free nitrogen
- Better than bare fallow
- Greater viability/profitability
- New soy varieties
- Chemical monitoring
- Continued research

# Why bother with IPM? – because *IT WORKS!*

- **Crops work for us  
instead of us  
working for them!**

