

# NEWSLETTER



**BBIFMAC**

*Managing  
Natural  
Resources  
to ensure  
Social Wellbeing,  
Primary Production  
and Ecological  
Sustainability.*



A friendly frog who visited one of our sampling sites after the rain.

Issue 2

11/03/2020

## What's New?

Welcome to the March 2020 issue of the BBIFMAC quarterly newsletter to keep our members up to date on our work, results and upcoming events.

The recent rain has kept us all very busy here at BBIFMAC, with many samples to collect across the Burdekin area. The rainfall has marked the end of some of our projects, and so we have been hard at work compiling the results and writing reports.



Flooded cane at one of our sampling sites after the heavy rainfall in January.

While some projects are coming to a close, others are just beginning. BBIFMAC have been brought in by Greening Australia to undertake the water quality monitoring of their bioreactor in the West Haughton.

Bioreactors treat the tail water runoff from the paddock by creating an anaerobic environment for bacteria which break down nutrients and some pesticides.



Arwen undertaking water quality monitoring at the Greening Australia Bioreactor.

## Recent Events

Just this week, BBIFMAC staff harvested the black sesame crop at Rita Island, which has been part of a North Queensland spice trial undertaken with Central Queensland University (CQU) and Kenrose Farming Co with funding from the Cooperative Research Centre for Northern Australia (CRCNA).

We were accompanied by Surya Bhattarai who travelled from CQU in Rockhampton to oversee the harvest and conduct the final measurements of the crop. The purpose of this spice trial is to determine the suitability of these condiment crops for the conditions in the tropics, and develop a reliable market should the crops be appropriate in local conditions. The summer season crop also includes fennel, which will be harvested shortly. In the winter, trials will begin for other varieties of spices including Caraway, Cumin and Kalonji.



The BBIFMAC, CQU and Kenrose team conducting the black sesame harvest.



The black sesame biomass was placed on a tarp to be dried and measured.



The black sesame a week prior to harvest. Note the dark coloured pods that had started drying off, ready for harvest.

## Meet the BBIFMAC team!



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce one of our great BBIFMAC team members with each newsletter. In this issue we introduce Dennis Stubbs, our Field Officer.

Dennis has many years of experience in farming the Burdekin floodplain and has established great relationships with the farming community. Dennis has worked with BBIFMAC for 11 years and understands the challenges that farmers face, which has earned him considerable respect in this sector.

Dennis manages the installation of sampling equipment at our field sites, and undertakes sampling and monitoring for a variety of projects across the Burdekin area.



Easter is fast approaching and we would like to wish you a happy and safe Easter period.

## Become a BBIFMAC member!

**JOIN NOW FOR JUST \$20 PER YEAR.**

BBIFMAC members receive:

- ❖ Free or discounted water quality tests.
- ❖ Discounted water quality monitoring equipment.
- ❖ Information and assistance with grants.
- ❖ Invitations to key events of interest around the region.



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