



# Media Release

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## Recognising the sugarcane industry's top innovators

The search for the top innovators in the Australian sugarcane industry is on again. Nominations are now open for the 2010 Sugar Research and Development Corporation Innovation Awards - the sugarcane industry's premier awards to recognise research innovation and innovative thinkers.

SRDC Acting Executive Director Annette Sugden said there are many individuals and groups of like-minded people who make a significant contribution towards the use of technologies and practices that drive the Australian sugarcane industry. These are people who embrace change and these are the people SRDC want to recognise and showcase.

"Innovation is critical for the long-term sustainability of the industry, so it's important we all take the time to recognise the men and women who play a leading role in promoting innovative thinking and research", Ms Sugden said.

"This year SRDC has made some adjustments to the prize winnings for each innovation award category, although the criteria for each reward will remain the same as in previous years", Ms Sugden said.

The 2010 SRDC Innovation Award categories are:

**Team Innovation Award** offers a \$12,000 prize and a perpetual trophy. This award recognises the contribution a team has already delivered to provide significant benefits to the Australian sugarcane industry. In 2009 Horizon Science, won the SRDC Innovation Award for their involvement in producing the world's first all natural low glycemic index (GI) cane sugar.

**Individual Research and Development Award** offers an \$8,000 prize to reward outstanding achievement by an individual in research and development. Last year's award was given to BSES Principal Researcher Dr Robert Magarey for his outstanding contribution to the sugar industry in sugarcane smut research over the past five years.

**Individual Service Award** offers a \$3,000 prize, for individual excellence in the advancement of innovative R&D within the Australian sugarcane industry. Judges will be looking for someone who has shown sustained leadership in influencing innovative R&D through management, policy development and or promotional activities. In 2009 this award was presented to Dr Robert Troedson, for his commitment and dedication to linking results from innovative science back to the sugarcane industry.

"Winners of the Team Innovation Award and Individual R&D Award will be encouraged to direct their financial reward towards continuing their research or professional development. SRDC will require written feedback from the award recipients outlining how they benefited from their award investment", Ms Sugden said.

"The 2010 SRDC Innovation Awards presents an ideal opportunity for us to profile and acknowledge those people with a real commitment to fostering change within our industry," Ms Sugden.

**Nominations close 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010** and the awards will be presented during the [Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists](#) conference in Bundaberg 11-14<sup>th</sup> May 2010. [Nomination forms](#) and [guidelines](#) for the awards are available from [www.srdc.gov.au](http://www.srdc.gov.au)

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*Investing in Sugarcane Industry Innovation*