

Enhancing Operational Capability in the Australian Sugar Industry

QUT and Sugar Research Institute deliver national training to improve sugar factory workforce performance

The QUT Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy (CAB), in partnership with the Sugar Research Institute (SRI), has developed and delivered a national training program to enhance the technical capability and performance of Australia's sugar factory workforce.

Since 2017, CAB has provided a suite of specialist sugar industry training courses. These courses, available both face-to-face and online, are designed to upskill factory operators, supervisors, and managers across regional and metropolitan areas, covering critical stages of sugar production from cane preparation to sugar drying.

To assess the real-world outcomes, QUT conducted a 2025 survey of factory supervisors whose team members had completed at least one of the programs.

The feedback from this survey, detailed in the *"Post-Training Report – SRI Sugar Factory Courses 2025"*, revealed significant workplace impact: 85% of supervisors observed at least a 5% improvement in staff proficiency, while 100% reported some level of skills improvement. All supervisors noted that the training had been applied in practice.

Specific examples of improved performance cited included enhanced control of operations and more effective equipment setup. These results clearly indicate that the training not only builds individual technical knowledge but also directly contributes to more efficient performing factory operations.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Impact highlights

- Developed and delivered for the Australian sugar factory workforce in partnership with the Sugar Research Institute
- The training courses, available face-to-face and online, upskill factory operators, supervisors, and managers in critical stages of sugar production
- Current team members include Associate Professor Geoff Kent, Mr Hakan Bakir, Dr Anthony Mann, Dr Floren Plaza, and Associate Professor Darryn Rackemann



Image: QUT's sugar industry training program



**Centre for
Agriculture
and the
Bioeconomy**

Find out more
research.qut.edu.au/cab/

