

# MAPS – Moving Forward

## Vision

Maximise sustainable and profitable production of sugar cane in the Mackay Sugar area through the delivery of effective agronomic, economic and environmental advice, extension services and tools to growers.

## Core Functions - Do them and do them well.

1. Clean Seed Propagation and Distribution
2. Pest and Disease Management
3. Grower Extension and Productivity

Continually re-assess MAPS role and function in a changing environment – MAPS need to remain relevant and valued by growers and Mackay Sugar.

**Core Function: Clean Seed Distribution**

Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
Clean Seed Uptake	Low	Increase uptake of clean seed to 3% by 2027, which is sufficient cane to plant 30% of the mill area.	<p>Expansion of clean seed plots throughout the Mackay Sugar district while still upholding strong and strict planting protocols with regards to diseases.</p> <p>Larger MAPS distribution plots. Easier ability to collect clean seed – the first step to improving productivity.</p> <p>Start by expanding existing billet plots and build on the uptake and gauge the demand.</p> <p>Selection of growers/farms to grow the plots is vital to the success of this project.</p> <p>Carry out study of costs and benefits prior to implementation.</p>	<p>Planting good quality seed cane significantly reduces the risk of serious pest or disease outbreaks in commercial blocks.</p> <p>Good quality seed cane has good germination which improves the likelihood of high yields throughout the ratoon crops.</p> <p>Previously clean seed uptake had slowed due to grower's age and manual methods of collection and planting. The more recent method of limited billet distribution has generated high interest from the growers.</p>

**Core Function: Pest and Disease Management (including prevention)**

Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
RSD	Low	<p>Conduct plant source inspections on 100% of Mackay Sugar farms.</p> <p>Reduce RSD levels to below 0.5% by 2027. (Currently at 0.9%)</p>	<p>Expansion of clean seed plots throughout the Mackay Sugar district while still upholding strong and strict planting protocols with regards to diseases.</p> <p>Larger MAPS distribution plots. Easier ability to collect clean seed – the first step to improving productivity.</p> <p>Start by expanding existing billet plots and build on the uptake and gauge the demand.</p> <p>Selection of growers/farms to grow the plots is vital to the success of this project.</p> <p>Carry out study of costs and benefits prior to implementation.</p>	<p>Planting good quality seed cane significantly reduces the risk of serious pest or disease outbreaks in commercial blocks.</p> <p>Good quality seed cane has good germination which improves the likelihood of high yields throughout the ratoon crops.</p> <p>Previously clean seed uptake had slowed due to grower's age and manual methods of collection and planting. The more recent method of limited billet distribution has generated high interest from the growers.</p>

**Core Function: Pest and Disease Management (including prevention)**

Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
<p>Detection of new and exotic pests and diseases, whilst maintaining focus on current pest and diseases.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Monitor pest and disease levels over 100% of district. Conduct annual survey for selected pest and diseases.</p>	<p>Maintain and improve high standards set by MAPS in the area of pest and disease monitoring and management. Regular training from SRA and other industry organisations addressing Bio-security issues. Assist with Pest Damage Mitigation Permits. Target selected pest/disease to survey on a yearly basis.</p>	<p>Reduce yield losses from pest and disease. Prevent a major disease outbreak. Liaise with DES regarding Damage Mitigation Permits. (Industry permit –Rats)</p>
<p><b>Grower Extension</b> 1.Sra Training</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>10 training/workshops a year</p>	<p>MAPS staff receive training from SRA industry researchers and experts. MAPS staff receive training from training consultants to on how to present information in an appealing format to growers. Review skill sets within MAPS to determine if additional personnel or training is required.</p>	<p>Knowledge transfer to staff is vital to addressing productivity reinstates and improving productivity. Continued up-skilling of staff to provide quality agronomic advice to growers</p>

**Core Function: Grower Extension and Productivity**

Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
2.Agtrix Farming	Medium	35 growers/year	<p>Agtrix Farming is a spatial data recording program that is now available to all Mackay Sugar growers.</p> <p>Continue development and functionality of Agtrix program.</p> <p>Continue training/workshops of N&amp;P budget functionality.</p> <p>Provide staff with an in-field data recording program that can be used as an extension tool.</p> <p>Develop Agtrix roll out plan to growers, including training for interested growers.</p>	<p>There is no system for cane growers to easily record farming practices and be legally compliant (Reef Regulations &amp; BMP).</p> <p>Growers that keep better records make better decisions.</p> <p>Collection of district wide data allows MAPS to provide better advice to growers, SRA, Mackay Sugar and feedback to government on nutrient and chemical management issues.</p> <p>In-field data entry is time efficient. Staff having a field based tablet generates a new extension tool for growers.</p> <p>Data collected by both MAPS and Mackay Sugar needs to be used by both groups. Currently there is double handling of some data.</p>

**Core Function: Grower Extension and Productivity**

Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
3.Fallow Management	Medium	20 growers/year	<p>Provide additional training to staff to assist in this area and promote the use of break crops for soil health and economical evaluation.</p> <p>Promote the MAPS legume planter and demonstrate with on-farm trails.</p> <p>Target growers that have not previously grown break crops.</p> <p>Better educate growers on the cost-effective benefits of mill by-products vs other fertiliser products</p> <p>Establish demonstration trials across the district to demonstrate the productivity benefits of the by-products.</p> <p>Collaborate with Mackay Sugar to promote the use of by-products throughout the district.</p>	<p>Break crops break the monoculture and help improve soil health and also have the ability to provide an additional income source to growers, making them more economical viable.</p> <p>Mill by-products are excellent soil conditions and provide soil health benefits. Also a cost effective option for growers for nutrients.</p> <p>Mackay Sugar is required to dispose of by-products in an environmentally approved method. More uptake from growers on marginal soil types improves productivity and is beneficial to both growers and Mackay Sugar.</p> <p>Apart from improving soil health, break crops can also provide additional income to growers.</p>

**Core Function: Grower Extension and Productivity**

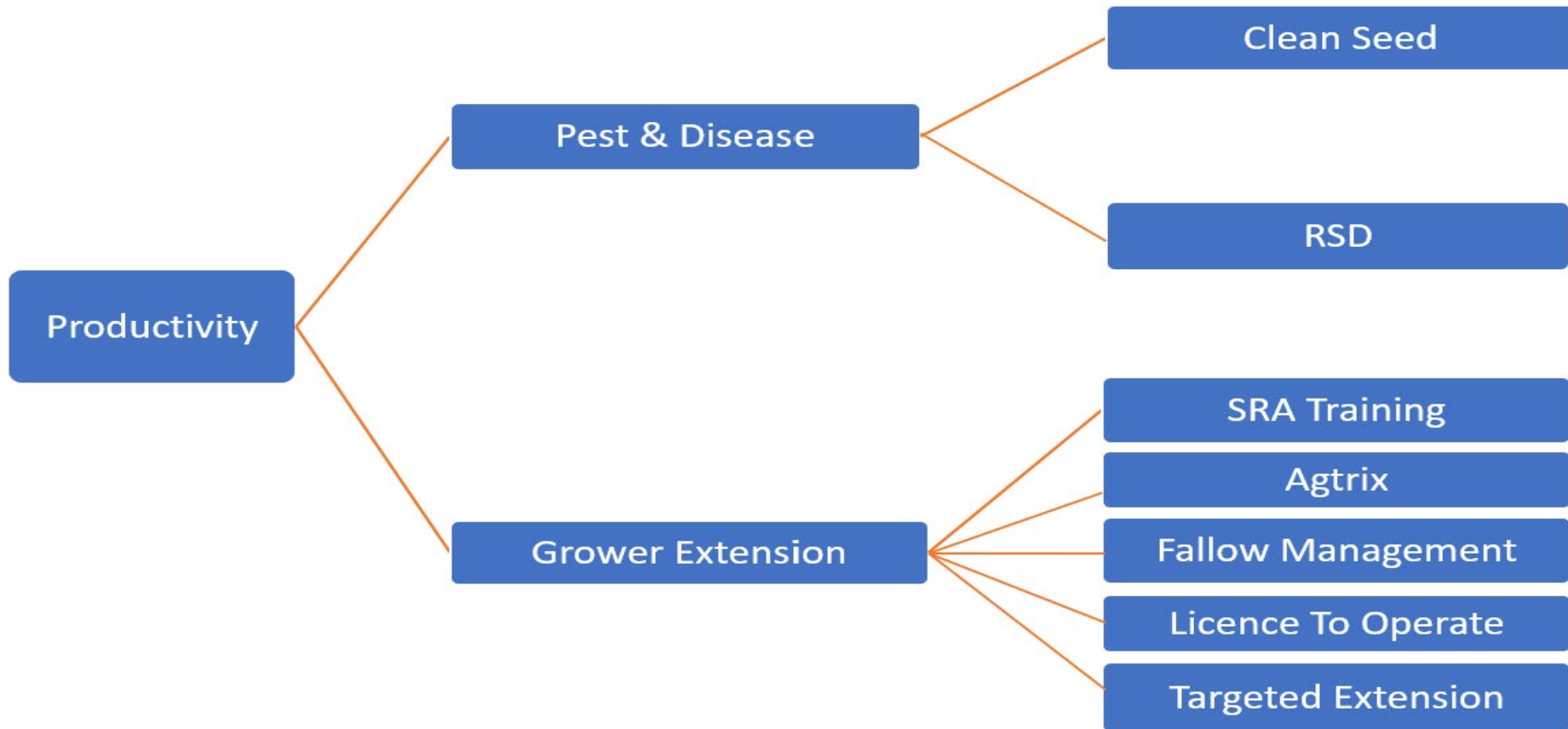
Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
4. License to Operate	Low	30 growers/year	<p>Promote awareness and compliance with Reef Regulations and Industry Code of Practice.</p> <p>Facilitate pro-active initiatives which connect good water quality outcomes with farm practices and improved productivity.</p> <p>Monitor awareness and compliance through a survey of grower practices/record keeping.</p> <p>Participate in relevant industry and community working groups.</p> <p>Provide relevant technical input to various industry bodies.</p>	<p>Facilitate monitoring of water run-off and water quality to provide more information on a sub-catchment and farm level.</p> <p>Encourage alternative practices that can maximise efficacy of farm inputs while minimising the chances of offsite movement</p> <p>A pro-active approach demonstrates to the community how growers are addressing their license to operate obligations.</p> <p>Water quality improvements.</p>

**Core Function: Grower Extension and Productivity**

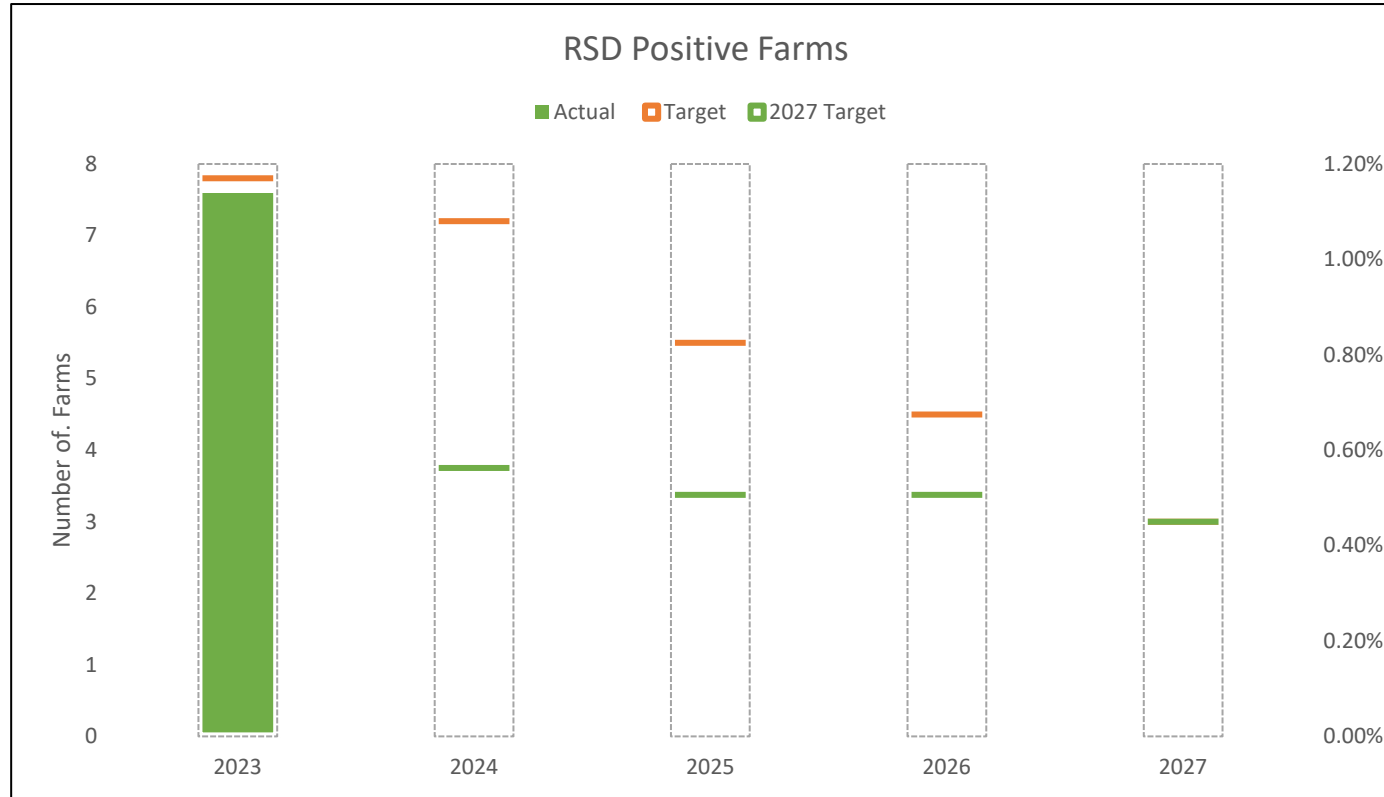
Focus Area	Risk	Measure	How	Why
5. Targeted Extension	Low	30 growers/year	<p>Make MAPS/SRA field day more attractive to growers to increase attendance and present clear core messages.</p> <p>Improve interaction with all growers to deliver practical agronomical solutions and provide information in a more accessible practical format.</p> <p>Promote use of tools on MAPS website and develop more as needs are identified.</p> <p>Use Agtrix data in one-on-one discussions.</p> <p>Utilise current shed meetings better with demo sites and discuss relevant topics – reef regs, nutrition, varieties, chemicals, etc.</p> <p>Formalise and utilise grower profiling/benchmarking.</p> <p>Promote the use of economics in the decision-making processes when discussing practice change.</p>	<p>MAPS have a very good reputation amongst growers through the personalised service provided by staff. Capitalise on this good work to promote programs (Agtrix) and a clear message.</p> <p>Currently information uptake can be improved. A “doing rather than telling” attitude has been implemented at MAPS.</p> <p>Profiling and benchmarking growers allows specific growers, zone or issues to be targeted to improve productivity.</p>



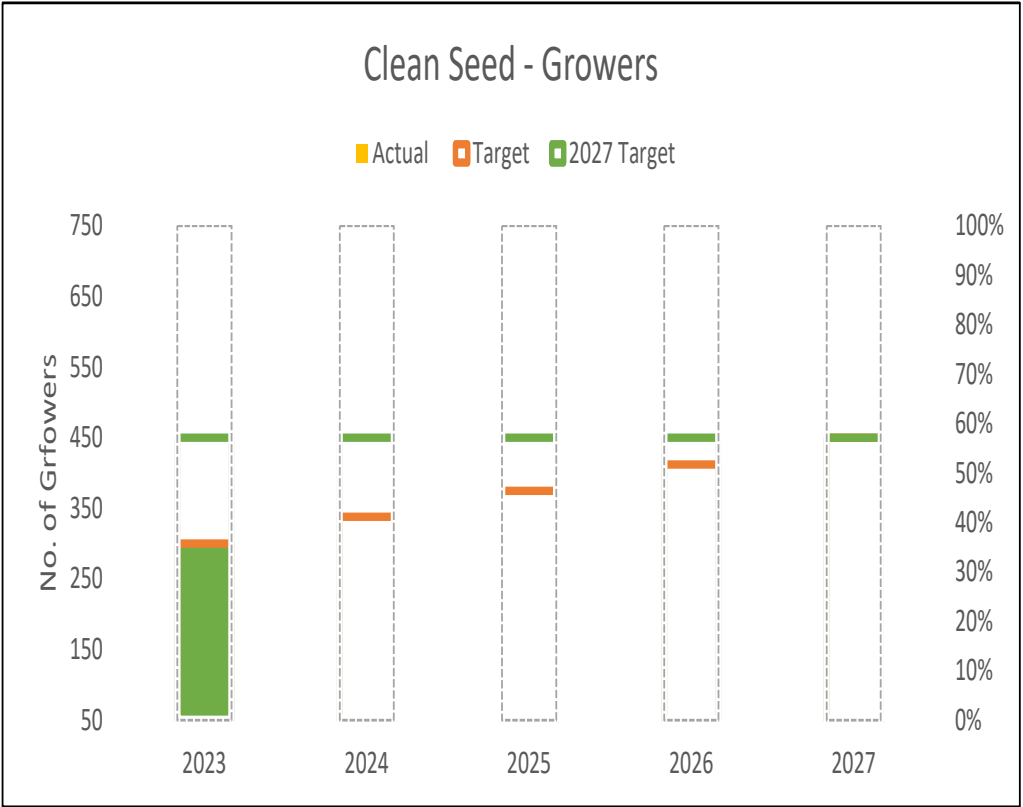
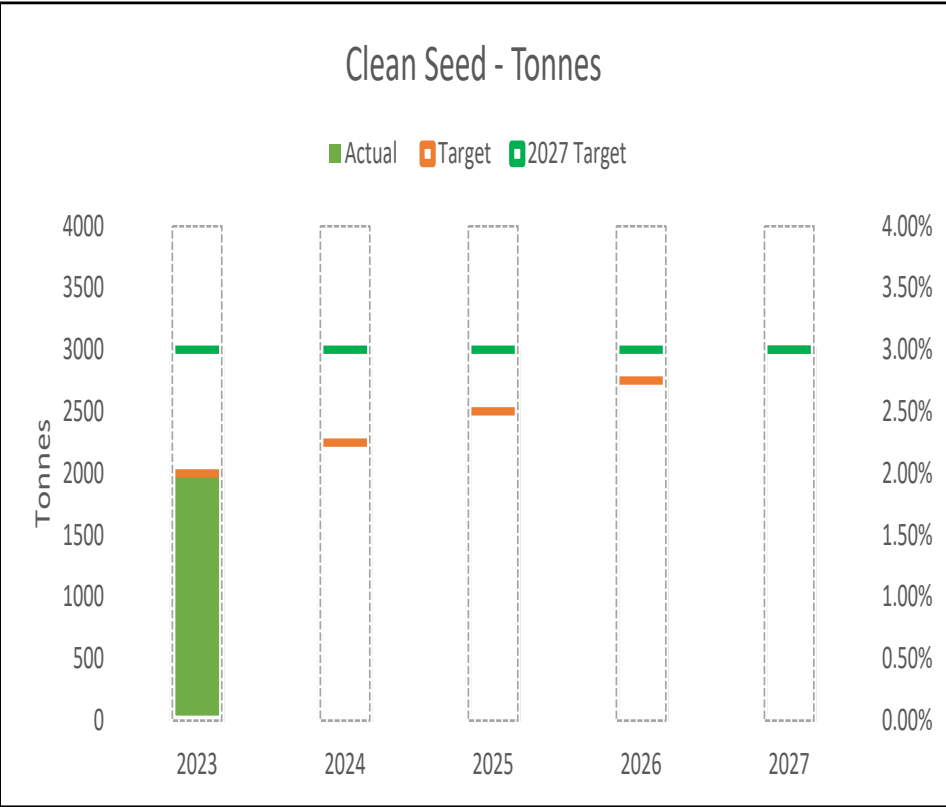
# Strategic Plan Priorities



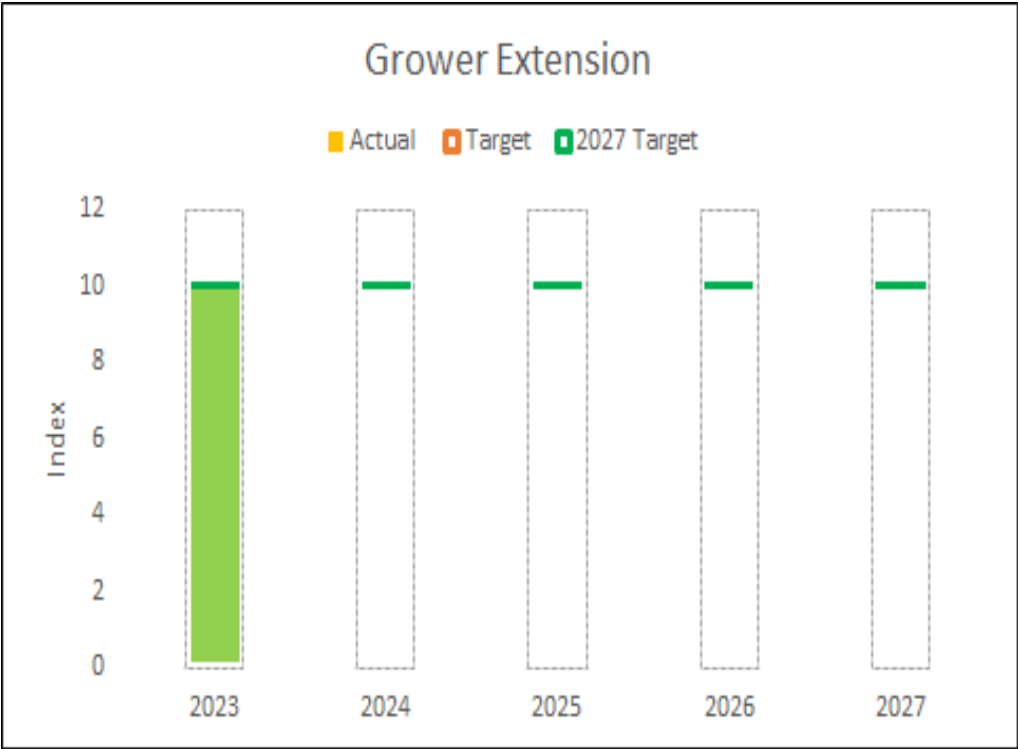
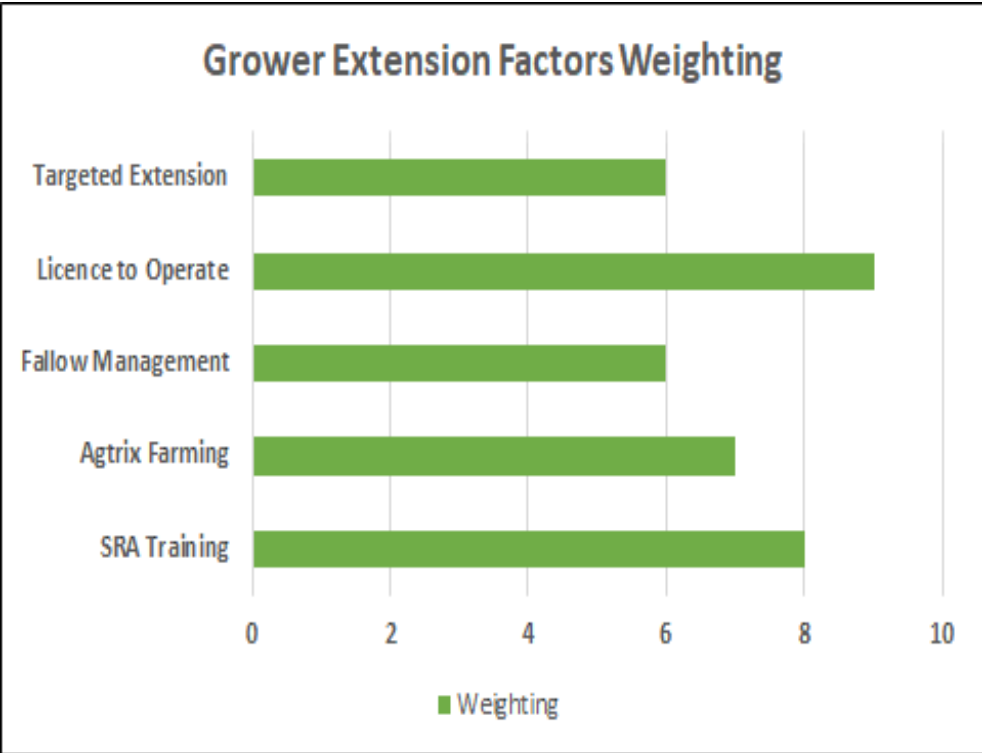
# RSD



# Clean Seed



# Grower Extension



# Productivity

