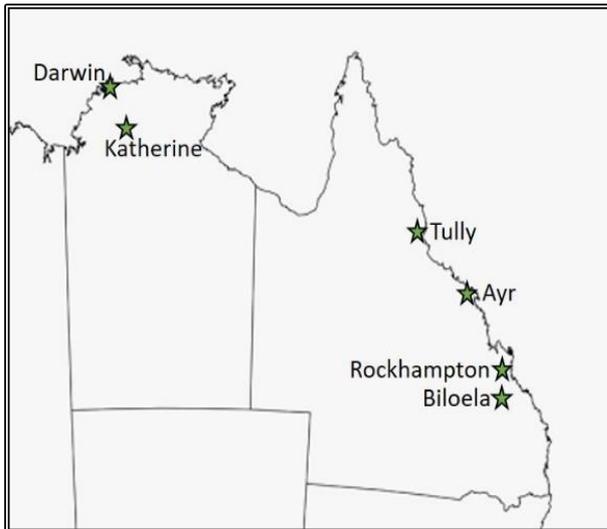


December 2019

SPICING UP THE NORTH



The CRCNA Spicing Up the North project is well underway with great progress being made in planting summer trials, developing grower guides and in undertaking baseline market assessments.

The project, being led by CQUniversity and AgriVentis, aims to investigate the market opportunities and trial the agronomics of five spices – black sesame, fennel, cumin, caraway and kalonji – in Northern Australian growing conditions. There are four trial locations in QLD and two in the NT (pictured left).

The four QLD sites in Tully, Ayr, Rockhampton and Biloela have been planted for the summer trial of black sesame and fennel, while the NT sites will be planted early in January. Preliminary market analyses are expected to be ready for

release in the first quarter of 2020.



CQUniversity's Resham Bhattarai has prepared materials for planting, with measured fertilizer quantities supplied to each site. She has also developed seed coating techniques to ensure uniform

planting of the trial sites. Planting guidebooks were also supplied to each site to ensure consistency of soil preparation.



Above are the CQUniversity researchers and students delivering the project of Sanjay Timilsina, Surya Bhattarai, Pramod Shrestha, Sobia Ikaram, Richa Neupane and Tienneke Trotter. They are pictured at the Rockhampton field site of farmer Peter Foxwell, of Alton Downs, where the black sesame planting delivered a good emergence (left) before thinning in early December. The plants were assisted by a little irrigation due to the lack of rainfall received in Rockhampton this year. The thinned trials will be monitored until harvest where the different lines of black sesame will be compared. Recommendations of the black sesame and fennel lines most suited to each environment will be made so that planting on a larger scale can occur in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the project or to find out more about growing the crop commercially, contact CQUni's Tienneke Trotter at t.trotter@cqu.edu.au.

happy New Year!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and