

Almond Fund Annual Investment Plan 2023/24



Proposed investments in 2023/24

A list of proposed investments in the Almond Fund in 2023/24 can be found below. Each year, almond industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the almond Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). At these meetings, the panels are provided with a financial forecast and an investment analysis of current investments. Based on this information, they provide Hort Innovation with advice on priorities for investment for the upcoming year.

The almond advisory panel met on August 8-9, 2022, January 16, 2023, and March 1, 2023, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2023/24. The levy R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1 and the CIF investment recommendations are listed in Table 2.

Note: Investments will be aligned to form multi-industry projects where possible, and all investments are subject to funding availability. If investments do not occur in this financial year, they will be reconsidered and reprioritised for the almond Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2024/25.

Table 1. Almond R&D levy advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2023/24

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Almond industry innovation and adoption program - phase two	3-Extension and capability	O3S1 Extension capability O3S2 Trusted relationships
1	Almond Center of Excellence Operation and Maintenance	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3-Extension and capability	O1S1 New varieties O1S2 Orchard intensification O1S3 Soil management O1S6 Emerging technology O3S2 Trusted relationships
1*	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O1S9 SARP
3	Evaluating single variety block plantings for Australian almond growers	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O1S2 Orchard intensification
4	Almond benchmarking - pathway to sustainable best practice management	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3-Extension and capability	O1S3 Soil management O1S8 Climate variability O3S1 Extension capability
5	One Basin CRC	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3-Extension and capability	O1S3 Water Efficiency O1S3 Soil management O1S6 Emerging technologies O3S1 Extension capability

Note * This is a foundational investment required to support data generation of agricultural permits and therefore does not require advice.

Table 2. Almond CIF advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2023/24

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Almond Center of Excellence Operation and Maintenance	1-Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3-Extension and capability	O1S1 New varieties O1S2 Orchard intensification O1S3 Soil management O1S6 Emerging technology O3S2 Trusted relationships

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Almond Fund as at July 1, 2023, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the almond SIP, can be seen below. Levy R&D contracted projected projects can be seen in Table 3 and CIF contracted projects can be seen in Table 4. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 3. Current R&D levy fund contracted project actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2022/2023 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
AL16002	Almond industry minor use program	1,700	2,000	2,000	2,000
AL16005	An Integrated Disease Manage Program for the Australian Almonds	453,533			
AL16009	An Integrated Pest Management Program for the Australian Almonds	599,659			
AL16700	Australia Almond and Industry Conferences Field Days	75,000			
AL17005	Almond Breeding and evaluation program	407,718			
AL18001	Almond Industry Communications Program	175,938			
AL19001	Almond Industry Innovation and Adoption Program	132,320	380,074		
AL19002	Market Access and Trade Development	99,014			
AL19005	Australian Almond Industry Statistics and Data Collection 2020-2022	74,883			
AL20001	Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production - Stage 3	95,534	95,534	95,534	95,534
AL20005	Pathway to carbon neutral life cycle analysis (LCA) in almond orchards.	120,650	64,965		
AL21000	Pathway to carbon neutral whole orchard recycling (WOR) in almond orchards.	147,794	112,380	96,124	
AL21001	Rootstock compatibility and density optimisation trials.	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000
AL21004	Cover crops for soil health and productivity	126,651	63,326	63,326	63,326
AL22002	An integrated Disease management program for the Australian almond industry - phase 2	243,440	486,882	486,882	486,882

Project code	Project title	2022/2023 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
	An integrated Pest management program for the Australian almond industry - phase 2	413,988	687,324	745,110	703,116
AL22005	Final Evaluation of AL19005	27,600			
AL22007	Almond industry statistics and data collection 2023-2025	83,880	55,920	55,920	83,880
AL22008	Australian Almond industry communications and industry events	270,560	176,000	176,000	176,000
AL22009	Australia Almond Variety Evaluation Program	331,623	110,541	221,082	221,082
AS18000	National Tree Crop Intensification in Horticulture	365,451	365,440	411,120	
HA19007	Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative PBRI Program	2,534			
MT20007	Regulatory Support & response Coordination	9,324	4,662	6,993	
MT21003	Consumer Demand Spaces for Horticulture	\$12,210			
MT21004	Consumer Behaviourial Retail Data	5,754	5,603	5,603	5,603
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance program	60,846	60,846	60,847	
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	7,963	7,963	9,555	
MT21201	Pilot program - consumer usage and attitude and brand tracking	972			
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude research program	6,049	7,640		
MT22005	Horticulture trade data 2022-2025	14,428	14,932	15,456	
PH17001	Development of non-invasive methods and systems for the assessment of hive health		58,697		
ST21007	Australian horticulture international demand creation	7,313			
Total		4,654,329	3,040,729	2,731,552	2,117,423

Table 4. Current CIF contracted project actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2022/2023 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
<u>AL17008</u>	Market Access, Maintenance and Development Program (trade shows SIAL, Anuga, Gulfoods, China TNC, Supermarket Japan, Food and Hotel Indonesia, Food ingredients ASIA)	483,797			
<u>AL19000</u>	Almond Centre of Excellence Experimental and Demonstration Orchard	362,285	350,850		
<u>AL22004</u>	Almond market access and trade development	2,408,191	1,635,888	1,606,346	1,348,023
<u>AL22006</u>	Almond industry California study tour 2022	116,000	29,000		
Total		3,370,273	2,015,738	1,606,346	1,348,023

Financial statements

Financial statements for the R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 5 below and CIF financial statements in Table 6.

View the current and most up-to-date financial statements for the Almond Fund at the Hort Innovation website [here](#).

Table 5. Almond R&D levy fund actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26 (as at July 1, 2023)

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
Opening Balance	780,773	663,430	200,197	265,738
Levies from growers	2,524,273	2,180,000	2,600,000	3,450,000
Commonwealth funds	2,719,755	2,643,301	2,524,999	3,342,001
Other Income	90,995	13,269	4,004	5,315
Total Income	5,335,023	4,836,570	5,129,003	6,797,316
Project funding ¹	4,654,329	4,480,529	4,078,659	3,472,791
Available for Investment	-	-	200,000	2,200,000
Grower consultation and advice	10,051	30,000	30,000	30,000
Service delivery	775,130	776,073	741,340	981,212
Total matched expenditure	5,439,510	5,286,603	5,049,999	6,684,002
Closing balance	663,430	200,197	265,738	365,318
Federal Government levy collection costs	12,856	13,200	13,464	13,733

Note:

1. Project funding includes committed projects and projects supported by the advisory panel and currently in the process of procurement.

Table 6. Almond CIF actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26 (as at July 1, 2023)

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
Opening Balance	9,934	498,986	322,242	367,251
Levies from growers	2,454,180	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Commonwealth funds	1,965,128	1,476,744	1,254,990	1,111,517
Other Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	4,419,308	2,776,744	2,554,990	2,411,517
Project funding ¹	3,370,273	2,519,915	2,141,516	1,896,693
Available for Investment	-	-	-	-
Grower consultation and advice	-	-	-	-
Service delivery	559,983	433,572	368,465	326,341
Total matched expenditure	3,930,256	2,953,487	2,509,981	2,223,034
Closing balance	498,986	322,242	367,251	555,734
Federal Government levy collection costs	0	0	0	0

Note:

1. Project funding includes committed projects and projects supported by the advisory panel and currently in the process of procurement.

DISCLAIMER:

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Hort Innovation) makes no representations and expressly disclaims all warranties (to the extent permitted by law) about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of any information published or made available by Hort Innovation in relation to this publication. Your access, use and reliance on any information published or made available by Hort Innovation is entirely at your own risk. The information published or made available by Hort Innovation does not take into account your personal circumstances and you should make your own independent enquiries before making any decision concerning your interests or those of another party or otherwise relying on the information. Hort Innovation is not responsible for, and will not be liable for, any loss (including indirect or consequential loss), damage, claim, expense, cost (including legal costs) or other liability arising in any way, including from any Hort Innovation or other person's negligence or otherwise from your use or non-use of this publication, or from reliance on information contained in the material or that Hort Innovation makes available to you by any other means.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE:

Copyright © Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited 2023

Copyright subsists in this publication. Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Hort Innovation) owns the copyright in the publication, other than as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth). Copying in whole or in part of this publication is prohibited without the prior written consent of Hort Innovation.

Any request or enquiry to use this publication should be addressed to:

Communications Manager
Hort Innovation
Level 7, 141 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Australia
Email: communications@horticulture.com.au
Phone: 02 8295 2300