

Melon Fund Annual Investment Plan 2023/24



Proposed investments in 2023/24

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Melon Fund in 2023/24 can be found below. Each year, melon industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the melon 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 melon R&D advisory panel met on May 11, 2023, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2023/24. The R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1.

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 melon Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2024/25.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Industry Communications Program	3. Extension and Capability	O3S1. Extension capability
*2	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) Renewal	2. Supply, productivity and sustainability	O2S7. SARP
3	Study Tours	3. Extension and Capability	O3S2. Engagement to Innovate
4	Melon Quality Improvement Program	1. Demand creation 2. Supply, productivity and sustainability	O1S5. Quality standards O2S5. Waste reduction
5	Strengthening Sustainability	2. Supply, productivity and sustainability	O2S1. Soil management
6	Solving Plastic Waste CRC	2. Supply, productivity and sustainability	O2S5. Waste reduction

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

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Melon Fund as at July 1, 2023, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the melon SIP, can be seen in Table 2. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 2. Current contracted R&D project actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
MT20005	Vegetable Leafminer	60,202	20,010		
MT20007	Regulatory Support & response Coordination	4,890	2,445	3,667	
MT21003	Consumer demand spaces for horticulture	3,758			
MT21004	Consumer Behavioural Retail Data	42,314	41,467	41,467	41,467
MT21006	Hort Stats handbook	2,083	4,167	7,583	
MT21007	Seasonal horticultural labour accommodation study	3,054			
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance program			21,850	
MT21009	Export Trade Program	79,297	79,297	79,297	79,296
MT21010	Economic Contribution of Australian Horticulture	295	1,008		
MT21011	Food Service Foundational Insights	3,837			
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	2,452	2,451	2,942	
MT21016	Feasibility study - surveillance & diagnostics framework for detecting soil-borne pathogens	14,000	9,463		
MT21018	Phenomenon	11,248	7,842		
MT21201	Pilot program -consumer usage, attitude & brand tracking	299			
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude research program	1,862	2,435		
MT22004	Soil Wealth and Integrated Crop Protection - phase 3	240,165	97,845	97,845	97,845
MT22005	Horticulture trade data 2022-2025	1,652	1,710	1,770	

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
MT22008	Capturing the real and potential benefits and costs of on-farm biosecurity measures	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
VM16000	Melon minor use program	350	1,000	1,000	
VM20003	Melon Nutrition Education Program	81,335	81,334	40,668	
VM20005	Melon Food Safety - Training, monitoring and support	125,000	94,590	168,400	
VM20006	Melon Industry Communications Program	73,934	110,904		
VM20007	Effective control of Listeria on rock melons	52,330	36,220		
VM21000	Melon Industry roadshow and conference (5yr)	118,380	69,190	69,190	59,190
VM21001	Quality Improvements in the melon supply chain	174,029	194,980		
VM22000	Melon export strategy	83,000			
VM22001	Identification and management of a fungal disease complex in melons	155,486	116,615	116,615	97,179
VM22002	Melon industry waste management	15,000	10,000		
VM22003	Training & Leadership	57,638	35,088	35,088	22,630
HA19007	Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative PBRI Program	839			
ST21007	Australian horticulture international demand creation	7,312			
Total		1,428,041	1,032,061	699,382	409,607

Financial statements

Financial statements for the R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 3 below.

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

Table 3. Melon 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	1,959,248	1,824,943	1,285,289	772,105
Levies from growers	678,065	720,000	720,000	720,000
Commonwealth funds	843,329	1,279,387	1,241,789	1,111,786
Other Income	47,396	36,499	25,706	15,442
Total Income	1,568,790	2,035,886	1,987,495	1,847,229
Project funding ¹	1,428,041	1,835,397	1,471,878	1,052,252
Available for Investment	-	300,000	600,000	800,000
Grower consultation and advice	4,269	26,000	26,000	26,000
Service delivery	254,348	397,378	385,700	345,321
Total matched expenditure	1,686,658	2,558,775	2,483,578	2,223,573
Closing balance	1,824,943	1,285,289	772,105	378,317
Federal Government levy collection costs	16,437	16,766	17,101	17,443

Note:

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

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