

Vegetable Fund Annual Investment Plan 2023/24



Proposed investments in 2023/24

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Vegetable Fund in 2023/24 can be found below. Each year, vegetable industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the vegetable 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 vegetable R&D advisory panel met in March, April, and June 2023, to discuss, provide advice on recommendations on investments in 2023/24. The R&D investment recommendations are listed 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 vegetable Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2024/25.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
	Antimicrobial Resistance in the Vegetable Industry	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O2S6. Product integrity
	Revisiting Brown Etch in Pumpkins	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O1S2. IPDM
	Digital Strategies to Drive Vegetable Consumption	2. Demand creation 4. Business insights	O2S4. Product differentiation O4S1. Consumer insights
	The Science of Bioactives in Plant Foods	2. Demand creation	O4S4. Product differentiation
	One Survey – Reducing Grower Surveys Across Vegetable Levy Funded Projects	5. Enabler	O5S1. Enabler
	Growing Our Leaders	3. Extension and capability	O3S3. Industry leadership
	Produce Executive Program Scholarships	3. Extension and capability	O3S3. Industry leadership
	Advanced mechanisation program	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O1S4. Automation technology
	Analysis of innovation challenges in the Australian vegetable sector	3. Extension and capability	O3S1. Extension capability O3S2. Trusted relationships O3S3. Industry leadership

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Vegetable Fund as at July 1, 2023, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the vegetable 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
LP15006	Attracting New Entrants into Australian Horticulture	(105,069)			
FF18003	SITplus: Port Augusta QFLY SIT factory pilot operation	74,107			
FF20000	National Fruit Fly Council Phase 4	4,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
HA19007	PBRI Phase 2	13,068			
MT14052	Essential market Access data Packages	44,133			
MT18008	National Tomato Potato Psyllid and Zebra Chip Surveillance	77,617			
MT20005	Management strategy for serpentine leafminer, <i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i>	202,174	67,200		
MT20007	Regulatory Support & Response coordination	57,095	28,546	42,817	
MT21003	Consumer Demand spaces for Horticulture	69,631			
MT21004	Consumer Behavioural Data Program	321,053	314,453	314,453	314,453
MT21006	Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2021-22 to 2023-24	20,834	20,834	75,835	
MT21007	Seasonal Horticulture Labour Accommodation study	48,468			
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program: Transition Program	50,168	50,168	50,169	
MT21009	Multi-Industry Export Program (Vegetables, Onions, Melons)	1,545,301	1,545,302	1,545,302	1,545,302
MT21010	Economic contribution of Australian horticulture	4,704			
MT21011	Foodservice Foundational market Insights	15,239			
MT21013	Fund Impact assessment 2020/21	71,610			
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	38,729	38,729	46,474	

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
MT21016	Feasibility/scoping study: Surveillance and diagnostic framework for detecting soil-borne pathogens in vegetable industries	14,000	9,464		
MT21201	Pilot Program - Consumer usage & attitude/brand Tracking	5,243			
MT21202	Consumer Usage & Attitude Tracking - FY22/23	36,222	42,751		
MT22002	People Development Strategy for the Vegetable, Potato, Onion, and Banana industries	23,492	5,873		
MT22004	Soil Wealth and Integrated Crop Protection - Phase 3	1,308,900	533,256	533,256	533,256
MT22005	Horticulture Trade Data 2022-2025	20,798	51,525	22,280	
MT22006	Education and tools for canteen managers to increase the consumption of vegetables in primary schools	381,279	148,066	308,320	114,937
MT22008	Capturing the real and potential benefits and costs of on-farm biosecurity measures	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
MT22009	Vegetable Industry Benchmarking program	1,432,891	573,156	573,156	573,156
MT22011	Lean Leaders Program	18,750	14,375	13,125	2,500
ST16010	iMapsPESTS Improving plant pest management through cross industry development	746,308			
ST17000	Generation of data for pesticide application in horticulture	17,752			
ST21007	Australian Horticulture International Demand Creation	7,313			
ST22001	Generation of Data – AgVet Grants 2022 ; - Eurofins	29,094	50,000	50,000	50,000
ST22004	Data generation - Crop protection		2,010	2,010	2,010
VG14065	Nuffield Scholarship	-687	64,400	41,600	11,400
VG16020	Vegetable Industry Minor Use Permits	12,600			

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
VG16037	Novel Topical Vegetable & Cotton Virus and whitefly protection	360,179			
VG16064	Tools and Interventions of Increasing Children's vegetable knowledge	971,403			
VG16078	Soil wealth and integrated crop protection – phase 2	313,001			
VG16086	Area Wide Management of Vegetable Disease: Virus and Bacteri	252,278			
VG17012	Internal Fruit Rot of Capsicum	72,900	68,820	68,820	
VG17015	Alternative disinfestation for market access for crops affected by tomato potato psyllid	189,007			
VG18000	Vegetable Industry Comms Program	581,297			
VG19007	Support Services for VG16086	7021			
VG20003	Co-developing and extending integrated Spodoptera frugiperda (fall armyworm) management systems for the Australian vegetable industry	40,654			
VG21000	Vegetable Extension Program - VegNet	1,985,046	1,985,046	1,985,046	1,985,046
VG21001	Strategic support for the VegNET national coordinator	3,668			
VG21002	Demonstrating the benefits of building capability and capacity in extension delivery in the vegetable industry	136,243	45,411	45,411	45,511
VG21003	Annual Vegetable Industry Seminar	131,858	65,929	185,800	
VG21006	CRC - Smart Film project	320,000	320,000	320,000	320,000
VG22000	Vegetable Industry Communications Program	839,656	839,656	839,656	839,656
VG22001	Management of foliar bacterial diseases in vegetables	328,383	254,820	347,929	273,478
VG22002	Identifying and managing the sources and routes of microbial contamination in leafy vegetables	200,000	327,217	323,994	212,802
VG22003	Learning from the past to amplify community vegetable education programs of the future	42,200	168,000		

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
VG22005	Evidence-based education program to support increased vegetable consumption in children	115,768	115,768	57,884	
VG22006	Nationally coordinated FAW AWM Innovation System for the Australian Vegetable Industry-	449,554	262,240	262,240	262,400
VG22008	Pre-harvest sanitisation of leafy green vegetables	20,000	8,756		
VG22009	Review - Retaining VegNET RDO's	19,000			
VG22010	International Spinach Conference 2023	50,000			
VG22011	Produce Executive Program Scholarships	14,236			
VG22800	Annual Subscription 2023-24	8,122			
Total		14,094,291	8,065,771	8,099,577	7,129,907

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 Vegetable Fund at the Hort Innovation website [here](#).

Table 3. Vegetable 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	5,007,251	9,145,397	8,501,440	7,865,759
Levies from growers	12,134,128	11,000,000	11,000,000	10,500,000
Commonwealth funds	8,179,617	11,333,957	11,317,080	10,672,602
Other Income	552,630	20,000	18,000	16,200
Total Income	20,866,375	22,353,957	22,335,080	21,188,802
Project funding ¹	14,094,288	12,690,815	12,321,554	10,494,157
Preserved Project Expenditure	-	3,850,000	4,150,000	4,350,000
Available for Investment	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,500,000
Grower consultation and advice	108,388	110,000	150,000	160,000
Service delivery	2,225,235	3,017,099	3,012,607	2,841,047
Total matched expenditure	16,427,911	22,667,915	22,634,161	21,345,204
Closing balance	9,145,397	8,501,440	7,865,759	7,366,025
Federal Government levy collection costs	300,318	330,000	336,600	343,332

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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