

Blueberry Fund Annual Investment Plan 2024/25



Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Blueberry Fund in 2024/25 can be found below. Each year, blueberry industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the blueberry 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 blueberry R&D advisory panel met on June 18, 2024, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2024/25. 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 blueberry Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2025/26.

Table 1. Blueberry R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2024/25

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	BerryQuest International 2025	3. Extension and capability	2. Provide opportunity for different levels of engagement between and across industries, across industry members and relevant stakeholders to innovate with, state-based IDOs and other extension initiatives
2	Support for agrichemical permits in berry industries	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	12. Provide regulatory support and co-ordination for crop protection regulatory activities with the potential to impact plant protection product access, both in Australia and internationally.
3	Enhancing management strategies for leafrollers and chilli thrips in the Australian berry industry	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. Develop and optimise fit-for-purpose, sustainable pest and disease management strategies for berry production systems

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
*	Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	12. Provide regulatory support and co-ordination for crop protection regulatory activities with the potential to impact plant protection product access, both in Australia and internationally.
*	Impact Assessment Program FY24-FY26	Enabler	Projects that enable and support the delivery of the SIP.
**	Understanding the cause of blueberry root wrapping and associated root-crown disorders	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	7. Develop a long-term sustainability program that includes a set of values, practices and communication activities that support a well-respected and sustainable berry industry (e.g., recycling of coir, plastics and water)

* These projects are foundational investments required to support data generation, evaluation and continuous improvement, and therefore do not require advice.

** This project was previously endorsed for procurement during 2023/24.

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Blueberry Fund as at July 1, 2024, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the berry 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 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
BB19001	Additional cold treatment schedule for Queensland Fruit Fly in Blueberries for market access to China	47,027			
BB21000	Minor use permits	3,510	10,000	10,000	10,000
MT18004	Review of the biosecurity plan for the berry sector	42,000	7,000	7,996	
MT18020	Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries	70,948			
MT20004	Export readiness resource/s – market access and trade development	114,194			
MT21000	Health and nutrition education program for the berry industry	74,375			
MT21004	Consumer behavioural retail data	5,057	15,181	10,121	12,189
MT22000	Hort Innovation fund annual report	200			
MT22007	Expansion of flies as berry crop pollinators	64,366	64,365	81,510	
MT22010	Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries	358,933	179,467	179,467	179,467
MT23000	Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia	2,500			
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	3,466	3,465		
MT23002	Fund annual reports 2022/23	163			
MT23003	Berry advisory mechanism	10,705	21,410	21,410	26,762
MT23004	Multi-industry berry trade development and market access project	116,524	112,233	113,890	115,596
Total		913,968	413,121	424,394	344,014

Financial statements

Financial statements for the blueberry R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 5 below.

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

Table 5: Blueberry R&D levy fund actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27 (as at July 1, 2024)

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
Opening Balance	377,127	164,987	348,749	319,796
Levies from growers	317,500	770,000	475,000	475,000
Commonwealth funds	544,256	589,537	510,928	463,072
Other Income	14,616	3,300	6,975	6,396
Total Income	876,372	1,362,837	992,903	944,468
Project funding ¹	913,968	980,187	848,155	767,775
Available for Investment	-	-	-	-
Grower consultation and advice	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Service delivery	174,544	188,888	163,701	148,368
Total matched expenditure	1,088,512	1,179,074	1,021,857	926,144
Closing balance	164,987	348,749	319,796	338,120
Federal Government levy collection costs	-	-	-	-

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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