

Melon Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2024/25



Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Melon Fund in 2024/25 can be found below. Each year, melon industry representatives meet as an advisory panel 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 advisory panel met on February 21 and April 18, 2024, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2024/25. Inputs to the advisory panel also included a report on grower priority areas from VM21000 Grower Roadshows project. 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) 2025/26.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Melon industry technical market access plan	1. Demand creation	2. Improve technical market access
2	Building Biosecurity Resilience in the Australian Melon Industry	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	3. Biosecurity
3	Identification and Management of a Fungal Disease Complex in melons (a variation)	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. Pest and disease
4	Melon food safety monitoring and support – Phase 2	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	4. Food safety culture

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Melon Fund as at July 1, 2024, 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 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
MT20005	Vegetable Leafminer	20,010			
MT20007	Regulatory support and response coordination	2,445	3,667		
MT21004	Consumer behavioural retail	20,646	62,028	41,352	49,799
MT21006	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	4,166	7,583		
MT21008	National bee pest surveillance program		21,850		
MT21009	Export trade program	79,296	79,297	79,296	158,593
MT21010	Economic contribution of Australian horticulture	1,008			
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	2,644	2,284		
MT21016	Feasibility study – surveillance and diagnostics framework for detecting soil-borne pathogens	9,464			
MT21018	Phenomenom	7,458			
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude research program	2,435			
MT22000	Fund Annual Reports 2021/22	945			
MT22004	Soil Wealth and integrated crop protection – Phase 3	97,844	97,845	97,845	97,845
MT22005	Horticulture trade data 2022-2025	1,710	1,770		
MT22008	Capturing the real and potential benefits and costs of on-farm biosecurity measures	6,000	6,000	12,000	12,000

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	5,004	5,004		
MT23002	Fund Annual Reports 2022/23	245			
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking FY23/24	5,123	1,286		
VM16000	Melon minor use program	368	1,000	1,000	
VM20003	Melon nutrition education program	81,334	40,668		
VM20005	Melon food safety – Training, monitoring and support	94,590	168,400		
VM20006	Melon industry communications program	110,904			
VM20007	Effective control of Listeria on rock melons	36,220			
VM21000	Melon Industry roadshow and conference (5 years)	84,190	84,190	74,190	78,650
VM21001	Quality Improvements in the melon supply chain	194,951			
VM22001	Identification and management of a fungal disease complex in melons	116,614	116,615	97,179	
VM22002	Melon industry waste management	10,000			
VM22003	Training and leadership	35,088	35,088	22,630	
VM23000	Melon industry international study tours	129,714	68,500	25,250	55,866
VM23001	Strengthening the sustainability of melon production	101,720	101,720	50,860	
VM23002	Melon quality improvement program	200,000	336,400	234,000	297,600
VM23003	Melon industry communications program	125,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
Total		1,587,136	1,345,195	839,602	854,353

Financial statements

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

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

Table 5: Melon 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	1,824,943	1,737,198	1,279,742	1,105,734
Levies from growers	790,897	730,000	730,000	730,000
Commonwealth funds	941,052	1,227,651	930,241	925,370
Other Income	74,087	52,116	38,392	33,172
Total Income	1,806,036	2,009,767	1,698,634	1,688,542
Project funding ¹	1,587,136	1,848,994	1,346,550	1,338,321
Available for Investment	0	200,000	200,000	200,000
Grower consultation and advice	2,606	25,000	25,000	25,000
Service delivery	292,352	381,308	288,933	287,420
Total matched expenditure	1,882,094	2,455,302	1,860,483	1,850,741
Closing balance	1,737,198	1,279,742	1,105,734	931,133
Federal Government levy collection costs	11,687	11,921	12,159	12,402

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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