

Onion Fund Annual Investment Plan 2024/25



Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D and marketing investments in the Onion Fund in 2024/25 can be found below. Each year, onion industry representatives meet as the advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the onion 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 onion advisory panel met on December 12, 2023 and May 2, 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 and the marketing 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 onion Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2025/26.

Table 1. Onion advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2024/25

| Priority | Investment | Outcome | Strategy |
|----------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Optimising trade in the Australian vegetables industry | 1. Demand creation | 1. Export strategy 3. Trade development |
| 2 | Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement with Indonesia | 1. Demand creation 2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability | 1. Export strategy 6. Regulatory support |
| 3 | Across-industry crisis and risk management | 3. Extension and capability | 2. Engagement and collaboration across onion and vegetable industry |
| 4 | Careers in horticulture | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 5 | High school education | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 6 | Nuffield Scholarships | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 7 | Leaders in horticulture: Business strategy | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 8 | Laser precision: A dual strike against pests and weeds | 2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability | 1. Integrated pest, weed and disease management |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 9 | Growing Leaders | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 10 | Horizon Scholarships | 3. Extension and capability | 3. Strengthen industry leadership |
| 11 | Valuing the vegetable and onion industry's sustainability story | 2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 1. Demand creation | 4. Optimise input management and increase climate resilience 2 Consumer demand |

Table 2. Onion advisory panel prioritised marketing investment recommendations in 2024/25

| Priority | Investment | Outcome | Strategy |
|----------|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Onion Marketing Strategy FY25 and marketing investments | 1. Demand creation | 2. Consumer demand |

Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

Current contracted projects in the Onion Fund as at July 1, 2024, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the onion SIP, can be seen in Tables 3 and 4. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 3. 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 | 32,029 | | | |
| MT20007 | Regulatory support and response coordination | 2,080 | 3,120 | | |
| MT21004 | Consumer behavioural retail data | 6,453 | 19,470 | 12,980 | 15,631 |
| MT21006 | Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook | 4,166 | 5,833 | | |
| MT21008 | National bee pest surveillance program | | 31,175 | | |
| MT21009 | Multi-industry export program (vegetables, onions and melons) | 77,011 | 77,011 | 77,011 | 154,023 |
| MT21010 | Economic contribution of Australian horticulture | 747 | | | |
| MT21015 | Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23 | 1,967 | 1,631 | | |
| MT21016 | Feasibility/scoping study surveillance and diagnostic framework for detecting soil borne pathogens in vegetable industries | 9,464 | | | |
| MT21202 | Consumer usage and attitude research program | 2,067 | | | |
| MT22000 | Fund Annual Reports 2021/22 | 905 | | | |
| MT22002 | People Development Strategy | 5,873 | | | |
| MT22003 | Nuffield Scholarship | 37,560 | - | 11,440 | |
| MT22005 | Horticulture trade data 2022-2025 | 1,742 | 1,803 | | |
| MT22006 | Educational and tools for canteen managers | (5,676) | 41,109 | 15,325 | 25,498 |

| Project code | Project title | 2023/24 Actual | 2024/25 Forecast | 2025/26 Forecast | 2026/27 Forecast |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| MT22009 | National vegetable benchmarking program | 34,967 | 34,967 | 34,967 | 34,967 |
| MT22011 | Lean Leaders | 3,154 | 2,324 | 498 | |
| MT23000 | Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia | 2,500 | | | |
| MT23001 | Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates | 5,004 | 5,004 | | |
| MT23002 | Fund annual reports 2022/23 | 489 | | | |
| MT23005 | One Basin CRC | 47,500 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| MT23007 | M&E dashboard automation test | 278 | 75 | | |
| MT23201 | Consumer usage and attitude tracking FY23/24 | 4,903 | 1,231 | | |
| VNI6000 | Onion industry minor use permits | 1,925 | 3,000 | | |
| VN20002 | Onion nutrition education program | 267,554 | 183,240 | | |
| VN20006 | Epidemiology and management of Fusarium Rot | 236,273 | 200,000 | | |
| VN20007 | Optimising chemical and cultural management onion white rot | 150,000 | 66,640 | 141,660 | |
| VN21000 | Accelerating the adoption of best management practice in Australia's onion industry through integrated grower-led communications and extension | 156,610 | 76,879 | 60,957 | |
| VN22000 | Onion international study tours | 30,521 | 91,565 | 30,521 | |
| VN22001 | Enhancing the usability of onions | 86,107 | | | |
| VN23001 | Understanding and managing the impacts of climate change on Australian onion production | 60,838 | 121,676 | 121,676 | |
| VG21000 | VegNet 3.0 (Onion contributions) | 144,230 | 288,460 | 194,664 | 50,434 |
| HN22003 | Interpreting the science of bioactives in plant foods to emphasise the benefits of consumption | 15,000 | | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Total | | 1,424,241 | 1,281,213 | 741,699 | 320,553 |

Table 4. Current contracted marketing project actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27

| Project code | Project title | 2022/24 Actual | 2024/25 Forecast | 2025/26 Forecast | 2026/27 Forecast |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| MT20600 | Media retention and performance payments | 702 | | | |
| VN23620 | Onion marketing plan FY24 | 330,000 | | | |
| VN24601 | Onion domestic marketing plan FY25 | 25,000 | 170,000 | | |
| Total | | 355,702 | 170,000 | | |

Financial statements

Financial statements for the onion R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 5 below, and the marketing levy fund can be seen in Table 6.

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

Table 5: Onion 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 | 2,354,374 | 2,393,611 | 1,573,954 | 910,528 |
| Levies from growers | 810,158 | 777,000 | 777,000 | 777,000 |
| Commonwealth funds | 856,927 | 1,631,621 | 1,456,569 | 1,124,745 |
| Other Income | 101,046 | 50,000 | 31,479 | 18,211 |
| Total Income | 1,768,131 | 2,458,621 | 2,265,048 | 1,919,956 |
| Project funding ¹ | 1,424,241 | 2,208,839 | 1,514,997 | 957,998 |
| Available for Investment | 0 | 500,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 |
| Grower consultation and advice | 12,319 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Service delivery | 277,298 | 524,403 | 468,141 | 361,493 |
| Total matched expenditure | 1,713,858 | 3,263,242 | 2,913,138 | 2,249,491 |
| Closing balance | 2,393,611 | 1,573,954 | 910,528 | 565,349 |
| Federal Government levy collection costs | 15,036 | 15,036 | 15,337 | 15,643 |

Note:

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

Table 6: Onion marketing 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 | 191,853 | 36,224 | 65,509 | 63,823 |
| Levies from growers | 279,363 | 268,000 | 268,000 | 268,000 |
| Other Income | 4,668 | 700 | 724 | 1,310 |
| Total Income | 284,031 | 268,700 | 268,724 | 269,310 |
| Project funding ¹ | 355,702 | 185,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Available for Investment | 0 | 0 | 210,000 | 210,000 |
| Grower consultation and advice | 1,162 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Service delivery | 81,150 | 43,215 | 48,901 | 48,901 |
| Total expenditure | 438,014 | 233,215 | 263,901 | 263,901 |
| Closing balance | 36,224 | 65,509 | 63,823 | 62,397 |
| Federal Government levy collection costs | 1,646 | 6,200 | 6,510 | 6,836 |

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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