

Vegetable Fund Annual Investment Plan 2024/25



Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Vegetable Fund in 2024/25 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 August 2023, September 2023, November 2023, February 2024 and March 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 vegetable Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2025/26.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
2	Development of cross-sectoral pest noctuid regional insecticide management strategies	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. IPDM 3. Biosecurity preparedness
NA	Careers in horticulture	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership
NA	Leaders in Horticulture	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership
3	Integrated management for Leafminers in vegetables	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. IPDM 3. Biosecurity preparedness
2	Management options for reducing the reliance on conventional insecticides for FAW in sweet corn	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. IPDM 3 Biosecurity preparedness
1	Guava root knot nematode delimitation and management	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3. Extension and capability	3. Biosecurity preparedness 1. Extension capability
NA	National strategy – baseline and affordability study for +1 serve of veg by 2030	2. Demand creation	4. Product differentiation
NA	Vegetable high school education resources	2. Demand creation	4. Product differentiation
NA	Vegetable business strategy fund	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership

1	Next generation of viral disease management for the Australian vegetable industry	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. IPDM
3	A program to tackle key challenges associated with baby leaf production in Australia	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. IPDM 6. Product integrity
7	Optimising capsicum and chili quality	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	6. Product integrity
7	Vegetable forecasting trial – sweet corn and beans	4. Business insights	3. Supply strategies
NA	Horizon Scholarships	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership
NA	Growing Leaders	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership
NA	Nuffield Scholarship	3. Extension and capability	3. Industry leadership
NA	HN23001-Plus one serve of vegetables by 2030: Program Coordinator	2. Demand creation 4. Business insights	4. Product differentiation
1	Vegetable industry study tours	3. Extension and capability	2. Trusted relationships
2	Optimising trade in the Australian vegetable industry	2. Demand creation 4. Business insights	3. Market access 4. Product differentiation
NA	Food as Medicine: Produce Prescription Program	NA	NA
4	Delivering the vegetable industry's sustainability story	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3. Extension and capability	1. Optimise inputs 2. Trusted relationships
5	Management of nematodes: A workshop to identify industry needs	3. Extension and capability	2. Trusted relationships 3. Industry leadership

Current contracted R&D projects

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

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
FF20000	National Fruit Fly Council – Phase 4	8,000	8,000	8,000	14,000
HN22003	translating the science of bioactives in plant foods	50,000	25,000	75,000	100,000
HN23002	Food as medicine – produce prescriptions during pregnancy	84,000	100,800	100,800	134,400
MT20005	Management strategy for serpentine Leafminer	67,200			
MT20007	Regulatory support and response co-ordination	28,547	42,817		
MT21004	Consumer behavioural retail data	156,611	470,901	313,934	378,069
MT21006	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	41,668	75,835		
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	50,168	50,169		
MT21009	Multi-industry export program (Vegetables, Onions and Melons)	1,545,302	1,545,302	1,545,302	3,090,603
MT21010	Economic contribution of Australian horticulture	16,016			
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	41,764	34,638		
MT21016	Feasibility/scoping study: Surveillance and diagnostic framework for detecting soil-borne pathogens in vegetable industries	9,464			
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude tracking	42,751			
MT22000	Fund Annual Reports 2022	14,182			
MT22002	People development strategy for the vegetable, potato and onion	5,873			

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
	industries				
MT22003	Nuffield Scholarships	4,000	46,560	40,560	52,000
MT22004	Soil wealth and integrated crop protection – phase 3 (follow on from VG16078)	533,256	533,256	533,256	533,256
MT22005	Horticultural trade data 2022-2025	21,524	22,280		
MT22006	Education and tools for canteen managers to increase the consumption of vegetables in primary schools	-42,573	308,320	114,937	191,238
MT22007	Expansion of flies as berry and cucurbit crop pollinators	156,272	239,116	202,401	
MT22008	Capturing the real and potential benefits of on-farm biosecurity measures	18,000	18,000	36,000	36,000
MT22009	Vegetable Industry Benchmarking Program	573,156	573,156	573,156	573,156
MT22011	Lean Leaders Program	23,750	17,500	3,750	
MT22012	Industry preparedness for exotic root knot nematode (<i>Meloidogyne enterolobii</i>)	21,000	18,000	21,000	
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking FY23/24	79,838	20,048		
MT23000	Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia	2,500			
MT23002	Fund Annual Reports 2022/23	487			
MT23005	CRC – OneBasin – Murray Darling Basin (10 years)	175,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
MT23006	Independent mid-term review of VG21000, MG21002 and BA20002 projects	8,786	20,500		
ST16010	Improving plant pest management through cross industry deployment of smart sensor	(60,000)			
ST21001	Generation of data – AgVet grants 2022	2,637	5,274	5,276	

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
ST21005	IMaps Pest Program Co-ordinator	60,000			
ST23002	Initiative in novel pest suppression in Grains and vegetables: Preparing the grains and vegetable industries for a future without broad-spectrum insecticides	331,333	100,533	201,066	206,200
VG14065	Nuffield Scholarships	41,600	22,800	11,400	
VG16020	Vegetable minor use permits	24,625	30,000		
VG17012	Internal fruit rot of capsicums	68,820	68,820		
VG19010	Vegetable industry – Extension and adoption program for the southern Queensland region	36,207			
VG20003	Co-developing and extending integrated Spodoptera frugiperda (fall armyworm) management systems for the Australian vegetable industry	52,776			
VG21000	Vegetable Extension Program – VegNet 3.0	2,311,510	2,637,974	2,637,974	3,074,986
VG21001	Strategic support for the VegNET national coordinator	6,206	14,127		
VG21002	Demonstrating the benefits of building capability and capacity in extension delivery	45,411	45,411	45,511	90,823
VG21003	Annual vegetable industry seminars	131,858	185,800		
VG21006	Glasshouse films to reduce energy use and increase resource use efficiency	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 Australian vegetables	254,820	347,929	273,478	
VG22002	Identifying and managing the sources and routes of microbial contamination in leafy vegetables - Pilot program	327,216	323,994	212,802	
VG22003	Amplifying community vegetable education program outcomes through impact assessment of	176,554			

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
	existing initiatives				
VG22004	Biosecurity strategy	2,281,999	1,741,000	1,441,000	1,441,000
VG22005	Evidence based education program to support increasing childrens vegetable consumption	124,168	66,284		
VG22006	Nationally coordinated FAW AWM innovation system for the Australian vegetable industry	262,240	262,240	262,240	262,239
VG22007	Agri-climate outlook (ACO) delivered through Agricultural Innovation Australia		350,000		
VG22008	Desktop study for pre-harvest sanitation of leafy green vegetables	26,781			
VG22011	Produce Executive Program – Scholarships	45,202	40,561		
VG22012	Revisiting brown etch on pumpkins	34,800	18,000	36,000	36,000
VG23000	Finding opportunities to strengthen innovation in the Australian vegetable industry	30,000	67,751		
VG23003	Advanced mechanisation program to maximise labour and cost efficiency	527,971	851,219	786,400	1,016,693
VG23005	National Strategy – Baseline and value perception study for +1 serve of vegetables by 2030	668,980			
VG23006	Management options for reducing the reliance on conventional insecticides for FAW in sweet corn	56,000	112,000	112,000	
VG23009	Growing our leaders		413,587	186,114	186,114
VG23010	Vegetable high school education resources	107,750	323,250	20,000	
VG23013	Horizon Scholarships	30,000	90,000		
VG23800	Intellectual Property (Including legal costs)	9,080			
HA23000	PBRI – Phase 3		16,000	16,000	16,000
ST23006	Generation of data - AgVet grants 2023-24		101,250	101,250	101,250

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
TBC	Consumer usage and attitude tracking		99,650		
MT24002	Mid-term review MT21009		68,000		
VG23002	Vegetable industry study tours		750,000	750,000	750,000
VG23004	Antimicrobial resistance in the vegetable industry		100,000	50,000	
VG23007	Guava root knot nematode delimitation and management		320,000	424,846	186,212
VG23008	Integrated management for Leafminer in vegetables		350,000	350,000	
VG23011	Vegetable business strategy fund		130,000	130,000	130,000
VG23012	Careers in horticulture		240,000	240,000	240,000
VG23014	Addressing key challenges in Australian baby leaf production		440,000	440,000	440,000
VG23015	Management of nematodes: A workshop to identify industry needs		60,000		
TBC	Development of cross sectoral pest noctuid regional insecticide management strategies		100,000	100,000	100,000
MT24001	Optimising trade in the Australia vegetable industry		189,000		
TBC	One survey		100,000	100,000	100,000
VG24001	Management of viral diseases for the Australian vegetable industry		440,000	440,000	440,000
TBC	Optimising capsicum and chilli quality		340,000	340,000	340,000
TBC	Vegetable forecasting trial – beans and sweet corn		80,000		
MT24003	Valuing the vegetable and onions industry sustainability story		220,000	115,000	
TBC	Leaders in horticulture		66,000	66,000	66,000
MT24007	Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia (2024-2029)		201	201	201

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
TBC	Regulatory support and response co-ordination		79,058	79,058	79,058
MT24005	Impact assessment program FY24-FY26		55,204	55,204	55,204
HN23001	HN23001-Plus one serve of vegetables by 2030: Program Coordinator		TBC	TBC	TBC
Total		12,912,742	17,837,567	14,801,368	15,345,154

Financial statements

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

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

Table 5: Vegetable 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	9,095,510	12,319,871	10,535,989	9,285,334
Levies from growers	10,589,605	10,500,000	10,500,000	10,500,000
Commonwealth funds	7,595,201	12,477,441	11,877,024	13,814,552
Other Income	462,920	431,195	368,760	324,987
Total Income	18,647,726	23,408,636	22,745,784	24,639,539
Project funding ¹	12,912,742	17,837,567	14,801,368	15,345,154
Preserved Project Expenditure	0	1,986,000	1,986,000	4,786,000
Available for Investment	0	1,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Grower consultation and advice	169,701	210,000	210,000	210,000
Service delivery	2,107,944	3,421,314	3,256,680	3,787,950
Total matched expenditure	15,190,387	24,954,881	23,754,048	27,629,104
Closing balance	12,319,871	10,535,989	9,285,334	6,048,531
Federal Government levy collection costs	232,978	237,638	242,390	247,238

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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