

Citrus Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 1st and 2nd Feb 2017

Attendance: David Arnold, Tania Chapman, Judith Damiani, Allen Jenkin, Dean Morris, Wayne Parr, Richie Roberts, Danny Thornton (SIAP members), Myles Parker (NHRN rep), Richard de Vos (Chair), Brad Wells (Hort Innovation).

Present for part or one day - Stuart Burgess, Andrew Farmer, Peter Whittle (Hort Innovation), Nerida Donovan, John Golding, Mark Hickey, Tahir Khurshid, Roberto Marques, Graeme Sanderson, SP Singh, Lorrain Spohr, Len Tesoriero (NSW DPI) David Daniels (Citrus Australia Limited), Scott Williams (Williams Consulting Pty Ltd), Russell Pattinson (Miracle Dog Pty Ltd).

Apologies: Gavin Porter (SIAP / ANFIC)

Location: NSW DPI, Ourimbah

Next Meeting: Early May, 2017

Overview

The Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) met for two days at the NSW DPI (Department of Primary Industries) facilities, located on the Ourimbah campus of Newcastle University. This was our first meeting with the new Chair, Richard de Vos.

A tour of the site was a useful activity on the first morning, being able to meet a number of the researchers undertaking work for the citrus industry. We were able to visit the post-harvest research laboratories, under Dr John Golding's lead, as well as the Cold Plasma laboratory for the new Hort Innovation Pool 2 project under Dr S.P. Singh (see <http://horticulture.com.au/co-investment-project/hn15000/>). Late that morning, the panel saw presentations from three NSW DPI researchers on root stocks, varietal evaluation and diagnostic tools.

Note that the NSW DPI are the Lead Agency for the citrus industry under the National RD&E Framework for horticulture, within the National Horticulture Research Network. For more information about the NHRN please see <http://www.hin.com.au/nhrn/about-nhrn>.

That afternoon, the NSW DPI staff left and the SIAP members reviewed the current financial status of the Citrus R&D and Orange Marketing levies and then participated in a facilitated innovation workshop. This workshop identified a range of research gaps as well as reviewing the concepts submitted to Hort Innovation through the concept portal. The topics covered included production, post-harvest, germplasm, biosecurity, market research, leadership and training.

The second day was spent providing input into the citrus industry's draft Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The advice provided from the panel built on the advice received through workshops and one-on-one discussions with growers over the past three months around Australia.

Near the end of the workshop, a range of performance indicators for the key objectives were identified within the draft SIP (i.e. what would this objective look like if it was achieved?).

Anyone seeking further information on Hort Innovation's citrus investments should note that a full list of projects, together with an overview of the program financials are available on citrus webpage of the Hort Innovation website.

Next steps

Feedback from this SIAP meeting will be included in the draft citrus industry SIP document. This will be placed onto the Hort Innovation website with communications on the Citrus Australia and Hort Innovation websites. The final SIP document will be presented to the citrus industry at the Citrus Industry Technical Forum on the 1st March 2017 in Mildura.

Anyone wishing to comment on the plan should contact Brad Wells at Hort Innovation on the details below.

The panel will meet face-to-face in Melbourne early in May 2017.

Contact

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