

Vegetable Farm Productivity and Resource Use Management Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 1st – 2nd March, 2018

Attendance: Michael Radcliff, Rachel Lancaster, Andrew Craigie, Rob Hinrichsen, Sharron Windolf, Bill Bulmer, Calum Wilson, Jessica Lye, Sam Turner (Hort Innovation), Greg Murdoch (Hort Innovation), Anthony Kachenko (Hort Innovation), Andrew Farmer (Hort Innovation).

Location: Devonport, Tasmania

Next Meeting: 4th May 2018

Overview

Hort Innovation convened a meeting of the Vegetable Farm Productivity, Resource Use Management Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) in Devonport, Tasmania.

The key purpose of this meeting was to:

1. Review the new vegetable Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) to determine alignment with current projects
2. Review current vegetable fund financials and levy forecast
3. Review and advise on the next steps for the vegetable fund and review concepts received.

The SIAP were given a tour of a number of production facilities around the Devonport area including Harvest Moon and Simplot. These tours highlighted the differing research needs from varying levy paying stakeholders.

The SIAP were given an update on the progression of previous SIAP minutes and actions.

The panel was then given a comprehensive update on the current financial position of the vegetable fund as well as an update on the progress of the robotics investment, namely VG15003 and VG15059.

The panel was provided with an overview of the strategy of the new investment plan for vegetables and how the current R&D program aligns with the new SIP objectives and strategies. The panel was asked for their advice on the current alignment of the investments and whether there were any deficiencies in the current project suite.

The panel then gave advice on concepts received by Hort Innovation, including:

- Farm Swap, professional exchange
- United industry approach to pest and non-pest contamination of produce
- Explore new Nanobubble technology for oxygenation within the soil root zone to improve crop yield

- Vegetable industry domestic and international leadership and development mission – coordination and delivery
- Vegetable and Potato Biosecurity HACCP.

Anyone seeking further information on Hort Innovation’s vegetable R&D investments should note that a full list of projects, together with an overview of the program financials will be available on the vegetable webpage of the Hort Innovation website.

Next steps

Hort Innovation, in collaboration with the vegetable SIAPs, will continue to align investments with the new vegetable SIP and to continue to identify program efficiencies.

The next SIAP meeting will be in early May.

Contact

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