

Onion Fund Annual Investment Plan 2023/24



Proposed investments in 2023/24

A list of proposed R&D and marketing investments in the Onion Fund in 2023/24 can be found below. Each year, onion industry representatives meet as an 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 R&D and marketing advisory panel met on April 19, 2023, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2023/24. 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) 2024/25.

Table 1. Onion R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2023/24

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
*1	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 update	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	O2S5. SARP
2	Translating the Science of Bioactives in Plant Food	1. Demand creation	O1S2. Consumer demand
3	One Survey – Reducing Grower Surveys Across Vegetable Levy Funded Projects	3. Extension and capability	O3S1. Extension capability O3S2. Engagement to innovate

Note * This is a foundational investment required to support data generation of agricultural permits and therefore does not require advice.

Table 2. Onion marketing advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2023/24

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Marketing Activity May 2023 – August 2024	1. Demand creation	O1S2. Increase domestic consumer demand for Australian onions through improving knowledge, attitudes and purchase intent

Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

Current contracted projects in the Onion Fund as at July 1, 2023, 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 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
MT20005	Vegetable leafminer	96,361	32,029		
MT20007	Regulatory support & response coordination	4,160	2,080	3,120	
MT21003	Consumer demand spaces for horticulture	2,797			
MT21004	Consumer Behavioural Retail Data	13,243	12,941	12,941	12,941
MT21006	Hort Stats Handbook	2,083	4,167	7,583	
MT21007	Seasonal horticultural labour accommodation study	2,272			
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program			31,175	
MT21009	Export Program	77,011	77,011	77,011	77,011
MT21010	Economic contribution of Australian Horticulture	220	747		
MT21011	Foodservice Foundational insights	3,598			
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	1,824	1,824	2,188	
MT21016	Feasibility/scoping study surveillance and diagnostic framework for detecting soil borne pathogens in vegetable industries	14,000	9,463		
MT21201	Pilot program - consumer attitude, usage & brand tracking	222			
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude research program	1,385	2,067		
MT22002	People Development Strategy	23,492	5,873		
MT22003	Nuffield Scholarship	5,000	38,200		10,800

Project code	Project title	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
MT22005	Horticulture trade data 2022-2025	1,683	1,742	1,803	
MT22006	Educational and tools for canteen managers	50,837	(5,676)	41,109	15,325
MT22009	National vegetable benchmarking program	87,418	34,967	34,967	34,967
MT22011	Lean Leaders	2,490	1,909	1,743	332
VN16000	Onion industry minor use permits	1,575	2,000	2,000	
VN20001	Crisis Management for the Onion Industry	16,900			
VN20002	Onion Nutrition Education Program	133,777	267,554		
VN20006	Epidemiology and management of Fusarium Rot	250,000	236,273	200,000	
VN20007	Optimising chemical and cultural management onion white rot	150,000	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	315,119	236,339	236,339	196,949
VN22000	Onion international study tours		61,043	61,043	30,521
VN22001	Enhancing the usability of onions	24,460	61,107		
HA19007	Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative PBRI Program	803			
ST21007	Australian horticulture international demand creation	7,313			
ST22003	Generation of Data Crop Protection	635			
Total		1,290,678	1,233,660	779,662	520,506

Table 4. Current contracted marketing project actuals at 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2022/2023 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
VN21620	Social, PR & Website	127,500			
VN21600	Onion Media	10,689			
MT20600	Media Retention & Performance Payments	3,086	701		
VN23620	Onion marketing plan FY24		330,000		
Total		141,275	330,701		

Financial statements

Financial statements for the 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 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26 (as at July 1, 2023)

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast
Opening Balance	2,341,466	2,354,373	1,669,775	1,273,353
Levies from growers	744,085	785,000	785,000	785,000
Commonwealth funds	773,941	1,498,391	1,196,159	1,131,233
Other Income	60,698	47,087	33,396	25,467
Total Income	1,578,724	2,330,478	2,014,554	1,941,700
Project funding ¹	1,290,678	1,495,199	987,872	678,888
Available for Investment	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,200,000
Grower consultation and advice	14,531	20,000	20,000	20,000
Service delivery	242,673	481,583	384,445	363,578
Total matched expenditure	1,547,882	2,996,782	2,392,317	2,262,466
Closing balance	2,354,373	1,669,775	1,273,353	933,554
Federal Government levy collection costs	17,935	18,294	18,660	19,033

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 2022/23 and forecast to 2025/26 (as at July 1, 2023)

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
Opening Balance	111,560	191,851	46,633	46,290
Levies from growers	256,581	270,500	270,500	270,500
Other Income	3,355	3,837	933	926
Total Income	259,936	274,337	271,433	271,426
Project funding ¹	141,275	330,701	-	-
Available for Investment	-	-	210,000	210,000
Grower consultation and advice	973	5,000	5,000	5,000
Service delivery	31,204	76,354	48,901	48,901
Total expenditure	173,452	412,055	263,901	263,901
Closing Balance	191,851	46,633	46,290	45,546
Federal Government levy collection costs	6,193	7,500	7,875	8,269

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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Any request or enquiry to use this publication should be addressed to:

Communications Manager
Hort Innovation
Level 7, 141 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Australia
Email: communications@horticulture.com.au
Phone: 02 8295 2300