



Dried Tree Fruit Fund

Annual Report 2018/19

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The projects in this report have been funded by Hort Innovation using sources including the dried tree fruit levy, Australian Government contributions and, in some instances, co-contributions from a variety of sources.

Welcome

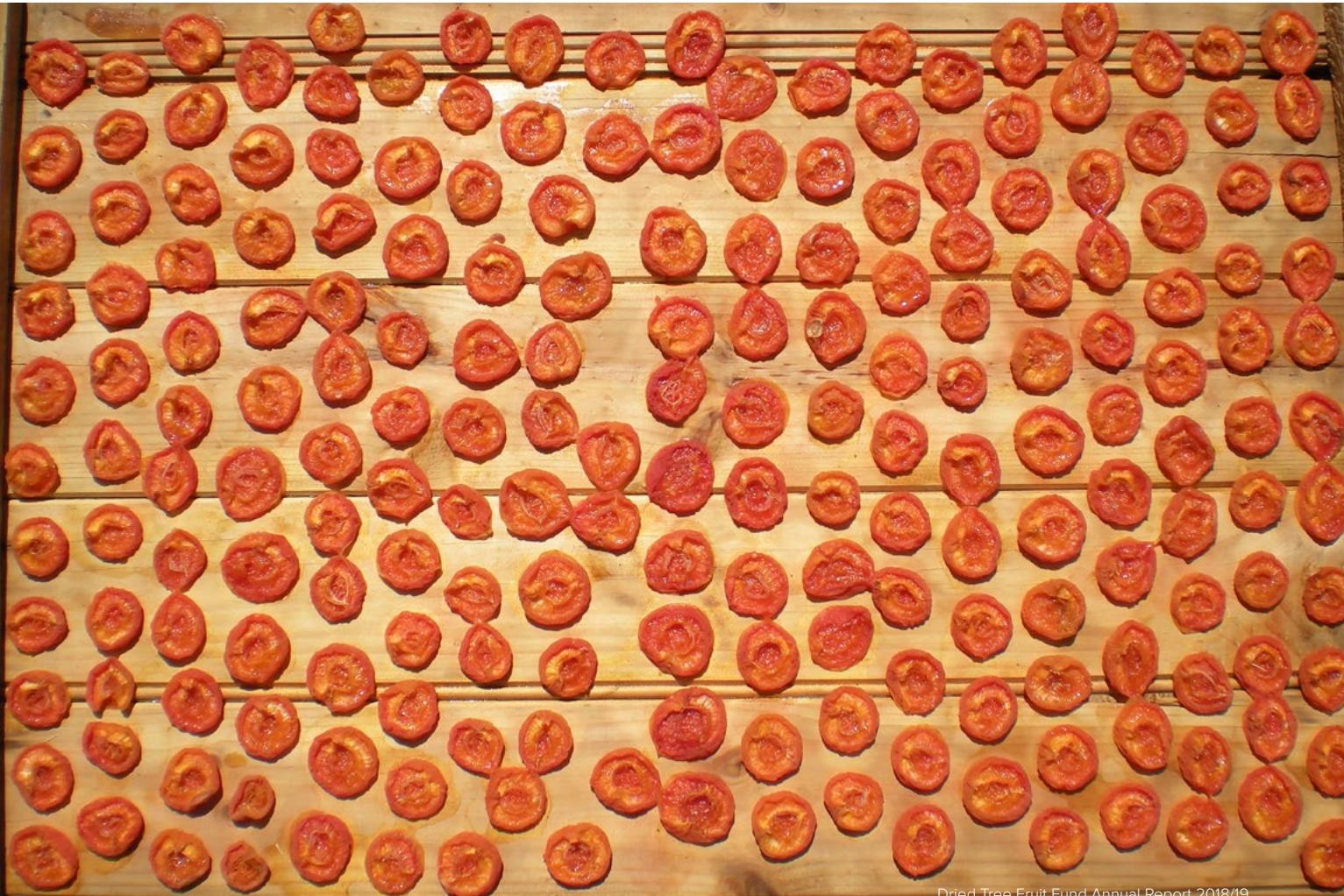
Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation (RDC) for Australia's horticulture sector. It's our job to work with industry to invest the dried tree fruit R&D levy, together with Australian Government contributions, into initiatives for growers.

During the 2018/19 financial year, the Hort Innovation Dried Tree Fruit Fund continued to support a key investment for the industry, working to deliver new varieties of apricots. In addition to the dried tree fruit levy, this research is funded by contributions from the Australian summerfruit industry.

Read on to learn more and be sure to take advantage of the Hort Innovation website at www.horticulture.com.au/dried-tree-fruit, where you can search and find information relating to investments, past and present, at any time. The new site and its Dried Tree Fruit Fund section were launched in 2018/19.

During the year there were also opportunities for Hort Innovation to connect with you, the growers. A big thank you in particular to everyone who came to our early-2019 regional roadshows to feed into the development of the new Hort Innovation Strategy 2019-2023 (read more at www.horticulture.com.au/strategy-2019-2023).

Remember, you can reach out to us at any time to learn more about our work, to submit ideas for investments, or to simply have a chat about your industry. You'll find details of specific staff at www.horticulture.com.au/get-in-touch, or can otherwise email communications@horticulture.com.au or call our general line on 02 8295 2300.



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Additional value in the year

During 2018/19, Hort Innovation was proud to deliver extra value to the dried tree fruit industry, outside of levy-funded work within the Dried Tree Fruit Fund. Here's a quick look at just some examples.



The new Hort Innovation website, with dedicated Dried Tree Fruit Fund section

You can now visit www.horticulture.com.au/dried-tree-fruit to quickly search and find investment information and updates, project resources, and growing tips and advice from Hort Innovation's R&D work. You can also download full final research reports direct from the site, access key contact information, share your ideas and feedback, and so much more.



The Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook

Each year Hort Innovation delivers an *Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook* packed with horticulture statistical information and analysis for use by specific industries and the wider sector. The handbook combines all available data on production, international trade, processing volumes and fresh market distribution for some 75 categories. The 2017/18 edition, released in early 2019, is available from www.horticulture.com.au/horticulture-statistics-handbook.



Hort Frontiers projects

With seven investment areas, Hort Innovation's Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative is about collaborative, cross-industry work to address longer-term, complex issues and opportunities identified as critical for the future of Australian horticulture. While industry levies can be invested into Hort Frontiers projects upon the advice of the relevant Strategic Investment Advisory Panels, the bulk of funding comes from broad-reaching funding relationships that are secured by Hort Innovation, plus support from the Australian Government. Learn about all of the projects and what they're delivering for you at www.horticulture.com.au/hort-frontiers.



Grant funding

In 2018/19, Hort Innovation delivered \$6.7 million worth of investments involving grant funding across the horticulture sector. To do so, we applied for and secured a range of competitive grants on behalf of industry, including through the Australian Government's Rural R&D for Profit program, Improved Access to AgVet Chemicals initiative, and Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. With projects across everything from biosecurity to agri-technology, there's plenty in there to directly and indirectly benefit the dried tree fruit industry.

Making investments in 2018/19

Hort Innovation is dedicated to making the right investments at the right time and in the right areas, in line with identified priorities for the industry.

Where the funding comes from

The dried tree fruit industry's grower-raised statutory R&D levy is collected by the Australian Government and entrusted to Hort Innovation as the RDC for Australian horticulture. It's then our responsibility to work with the industry to invest the levy, together with Australian Government, into strategic initiatives for the benefit of growers.

Additional funding streams can also come into play, such as co-investment dollars from sources including project partners, and grant funding that Hort Innovation secures on behalf of industry.

How decisions are made

Investment decisions in the Hort Innovation Dried Tree Fruit Fund are guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). This document outlines specific investment priorities, strategies and themes, and is available at www.bit.ly/dried-tree-fruit-plan.

The SIP is available for use like a 'roadmap' during industry consultation on potential investment ideas and opportunities. This consultation takes place as required with representatives of Dried Fruits Australia and with dried tree fruit growers.

Turning ideas into investments

Great investments start with great ideas, and Hort Innovation encourages all growers and other industry participants to share their thoughts and suggestions for the work they want to see. Ideas can be submitted any time via Hort Innovation's investment idea form at www.bit.ly/concept-form.

Ideas that are selected for investment are worked into project proposals by Hort Innovation. These are then made public for potential delivery partners to submit responses. Current opportunities are always listed at www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners.

Responses are assessed, often with the assistance of industry, and the best delivery partner for the work is chosen. A contract is then issued and the work begins.

Keeping track of investments

Investments in the Hort Innovation Dried Tree Fruit Fund are detailed on the 'Your investments' page at www.horticulture.com.au/dried-tree-fruit. We also send news and alerts to Hort Innovation members and contacts – if you haven't already, you can sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up.



R&D project list 2018/19

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2018/19

MT18011 Ex-post impact assessment*

* This multi-industry project was a key monitoring and evaluation investment during 2018/19 – we encourage you to find the full details at www.horticulture.com.au/mt18011

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2018/19

MT12015 Selecting and releasing to industry high quality fresh and dried Australian apricots for export and domestic markets

During the 2018/19 financial year, all levy paying horticulture industries also contributed to a small selection of across-industry projects addressing issues that affect horticulture as a whole. Details of all investments that Hort Innovation manages can be found at www.horticulture.com.au.



But wait, there's more. To see what Hort Innovation delivered across the entire horticulture sector in 2018/19, download the full Hort Innovation Annual Report 2018/19 from www.horticulture.com.au/annual-report-portal.

R&D report

During 2018/19, the Hort Innovation Dried Tree Fruit Fund continued to support a key investment for the industry.

Selecting and releasing to industry high quality fresh and dried Australian apricots for export and domestic markets (MT12015)

Key research provider: Dried Fruits Australia

This multi-industry project has been responsible for developing and evaluating new apricot varieties that are locally adapted, through a partnership with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) National Apricot Breeding Program. At the time of writing this annual report, Hort Innovation was working with the project team to finalise the work.

For the dried tree fruit industry, the project has been working towards the delivery of consistent high-cropping varieties of easily handled and processed apricot. The goal has been to identify fruit with high total soluble solids (TSS) levels and low dry ratios, to produce a high-quality, attractive dried product in the traditional Australian half-cut style. For the fresh apricot industry, the goal has been the delivery of varieties that can produce regular crops of robust fruit with a flavoursome eating experience for consumers.

Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2018/19

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2018/19 July – June	2018/19 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	23,909	23,909
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	4,480	4,480
Australian Government money	4,734	4,734
Other income*	564	564
TOTAL INCOME	9,777	9,777
Project funding	750	750
Consultation with and advice from growers	426	426
Service delivery – base	171	171
Service delivery – shared	283	283
Service delivery – fund specific	3,246	3,246
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,876	4,876
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	112	112
CLOSING BALANCE	28,698	28,698
Levy collection costs	270	270

* Interest, royalties

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