

A top-down photograph of several pistachio nuts on a weathered wooden surface. Some nuts are whole, while others are cracked open, revealing the green, reddish-purple, and white inner layers. The text 'Pistachio Fund' is overlaid in large white font.

Pistachio Fund

Annual Report 2018/19

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The projects in this report have been funded by Hort Innovation using sources including the pistachio industry's voluntary 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 voluntary pistachio R&D levy, together with Australian Government contributions, into key initiatives for growers.

The 2018/19 financial year was another great year of growing better, together – with strong investments, closer connections and critical collaborations continuing to be forged.

There was more than \$204,000 invested through the Hort Innovation Pistachio Fund across the year, to support the industry in being as productive and profitable as possible. With five ongoing projects addressing important issues and opportunities, read on to learn more.

Remember, too, to take advantage of the Hort Innovation website at www.horticulture.com.au/pistachio, where you can search and find information relating to investments, past and present, at any time. The new site and its Pistachio Fund section were launched in 2018/19.

During the year there were also many 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).

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.



Additional value in the year

During 2018/19, Hort Innovation was proud to deliver extra value to the pistachio industry, outside of levy-funded initiatives within the Pistachio Fund. Here's a quick look at just some examples.



The new Hort Innovation website, with dedicated Pistachio Fund section

You can now visit www.horticulture.com.au/pistachio to quickly search and find pistachio 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 pollination, there's plenty in there to directly and indirectly benefit the pistachio 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 pistachio industry's voluntary R&D levy is collected by the Pistachio Growers' Association and entrusted to Hort Innovation, under a collective industry fund (CIF) arrangement. It's then our responsibility to work with the industry to invest the levy, together with Australian Government contributions, 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 Pistachio Fund are guided by the industry's investment plan. This document was developed by the industry and outlines specific investment priorities.

The plan is currently used like a 'roadmap' by the pistachio Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – a panel made up of growers and other industry representatives that's tasked with providing advice to Hort Innovation on potential levy investments.

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

All investments in the Hort Innovation Pistachio Fund are detailed on the 'Your investments' page at www.horticulture.com.au/pistachio. 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.

Importantly, the industry's levy-funded technology transfer program is tasked with providing growers with regular information on levy-related activity. See p6 for more.

Connect with your levy! Visit www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up to sign up for free Hort Innovation communications, including industry-specific alerts, opportunities and general horticulture news



R&D project list 2018/19

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2018/19

PS16000	Understanding and managing insects on pistachio orchards
PS16002	Pathogens and other factors contributing to dark staining on pistachio shells
PS17002	Technology transfer for pistachio growers
PS17003	Pistachio productivity improvement program
MT17012	Generation of residue data for permit applications

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

Take a closer look at some of the key investments in the Hort Innovation Pistachio Fund during 2018/19. Any resources from these and other levy-funded projects – such as fact sheets, guides and more – are published on your grower page at www.horticulture.com.au/pistachio as they become available.

Understanding and managing insects on pistachio orchards (PS16000)

Key research provider: Ag Dynamics

Beginning in late 2017, this project is responsible for increasing knowledge about pest and beneficial species of insects and mites in Australian pistachio orchards. In its course, it's helping the industry better understand the pests that currently pose a risk to pistachio production, or that have the potential to move into orchards. The work will also help the industry prioritise future research in pest management.

Technology transfer for pistachio growers (PS17002)

Key research provider: Pistachio Growers' Association

Beginning in 2018, this three-year investment is all about bringing the latest in Australian and international research, best practice and technical information to the nation's pistachio growers.

Project activities include, but aren't limited to:

- » Maintaining and expanding the pistachio industry's regional 'Tech Groups'
- » Facilitating field days and farm walks throughout each year in the country's major pistachio growing regions, with involvement of Australian and international experts
- » Compiling technical information from Australia and overseas into resources for growers, including presentations, 'Seasonal Notes' that are distributed quarterly, e-bulletins and more
- » Updating of the industry website with new information (www.pgai.com.au)
- » Workshops for new entrants to the industry.

Information on upcoming events and Tech Group meetings are circulated in industry channels as details become available. The wide range of resources produced for growers can also be downloaded from www.bit.ly/ps17002.



Pathogens and other factors contributing to dark staining on pistachio shells (PS16002)

Key research provider: AgXtra

Established in late 2017, this project is delving into dark staining of pistachio shells and nuts – an issue that significantly downgrades the value of the product and that has been tentatively linked to fungal pathogens *Fusarium* and *Alternaria* in preliminary studies.

Its work involves field and laboratory studies to evaluate the occurrence of dark staining and to provide information on causal agents associated with the problem. It is also looking at factors that could influence fungal infection, such as insect damage or environmental conditions.

The project will ultimately develop a monitoring tool for growers, to use in evaluating the risk of fungal disease, and assist in the future development of management strategies.

Pistachio productivity improvement program (PS17003)

Key research provider: Pistachio Growers' Association

Beginning in 2018, this investment supports improvements in the cultivation of pistachios and the uptake of new and changing production practices through research, development and extension activities.

It supports the role and activities of a pistachio researcher who, in conjunction with other research associates, is tasked with undertaking ongoing field research that builds on the outcomes of earlier project *Maintaining and expanding the technical development of the Australian pistachio industry (PS14000)*, which was funded by industry contributions through the then Horticulture Australia Limited.

Goals of the work include:

- » Improving yields, through a better understanding of orchard management issues
- » Benchmarking and reporting on quality and yield information to growers
- » Assisting in disseminating information to growers, and in the adoption of R&D
- » Supporting an increase in pistachio plantings
- » Exploring new development areas for pistachio research
- » Responding to any changing environmental and seasonal issues that may arise.

Generation of residue data for permit applications (MT17012)

Key research provider: Eurofins

The generation of pesticide residue, efficacy and crop safety data is required to support label registration and minor use permit applications made to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority which, when approved, provide access to safe and effective chemicals for the management of pests, weeds and diseases.

Beginning in December 2017, this multi-industry investment is responsible for generating pesticide residue and crop safety data to support applications and renewals for a range of permits. For the pistachio industry, its results will be used to support a renewal of the industry's minor use permit for prochloraz, which is used in the control of anthracnose, panicle and shoot blight.



To keep up to date with the latest information on new, ongoing and recently completed R&D investments throughout the year – and to search and find resources and reports from these investments – visit www.horticulture.com.au/pistachio.

Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2018/19

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2018/19 July – June	2018/19 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	32,606	32,606
Voluntary levies from growers	244,457	244,457
Australian Government money	118,494	118,494
Other income*	2,081	2,081
TOTAL INCOME	365,031	365,031
Project funding	204,077	204,077
Consultation with and advice from growers	870	870
Service delivery – base	8,295	8,295
Service delivery – shared	13,745	13,745
Service delivery – fund specific	10,000	10,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	236,987	236,987
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	5,611	5,611
CLOSING BALANCE	155,038	155,038

* Interest, royalties

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