

Almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 14 March 2018

Attendance: Ben Brown, Domenic Cavallaro, Paul Martin, Troy Richman, Brendan Sidhu, Craig Simes, Ross Skinner, Toby Smith, Claude Gauchat (Independent Chair) Corrine Jasper, Neil Burgess, Vino Rajandran, Alok Kumar, Roxanne Portolesi (Hort Innovation) Michelle Wirthensohn (Guest presenter), Miriam O'Brien (Minute taker)

Location: Mildura

Next Meeting: Wednesday 19 September 2018 at Loxton

Overview

The almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) met to discuss a number of concept proposals for possible investment by both the levy industry fund and the proposed Collective Industry Fund (CIF).

An update of the newly contracted Integrated Pest and Disease (IPDM) program was also presented at this meeting.

Support was provided for an Almond Centre of Excellence, managed by the Almond Board of Australia (ABA). The SIAP discussed the potential for both levy and CIF funded project investment to be undertaken within the centre at Loxton.

Advice was sought and supported for the continuation of the breeding program with recommendations for Hort innovation to develop a tender proposal for future work in the Australian Almond Breeding Program.

The SIAP advised the following concepts to be developed further and or progressed for future investment:

- Autonomous Tractor
- Market development - China and Indonesia
- Contribution to Soil Borne Disease Symposium
- Tree Crop Intensification
- Almond Breeding program

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

Next steps

Hort Innovation will arrange for reports from the following at the next SIAP meeting:

- IPDM Update
- Educating Health Professionals and Nuts for Life.

The proposed next face to face meetings are:

- Wednesday 19 September 2018 at Loxton
- Wednesday 13 March 2019 at Mildura.

Contact

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