

Dried Grape Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 4 Oct 17

Attendance: Malcolm Bennett, Thomas Cheung, Peter Jones, Mark King, Anne Mansell, Ivan Shaw, Michael Treeby, Alison Kelly (Chair)

Location: Mildura, VIC

Next Meeting: To be confirmed

Overview

Hort Innovation convened a meeting of the dried grape Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) on October 4, 2017. The meeting followed the Dried Fruits Australia AGM and annual grower forum which were held on the 3rd of October.

The primary objectives of the SIAP meeting were for the panel to receive an update from Hort Innovation in relation to the investment program budget and to discuss options for funding high priority activities in light of the current funding constraints. As part of this, the panel received an overview of the current rootstocks project lead by CSIRO.

The panel was also advised that the dried grape industry marketing plan has been drafted following extensive consultation with industry stakeholders including growers, Dried Fruits Australia and the processing companies. The final plan will be presented at an upcoming meeting prior to implementation.

Lastly, the panel also received an update on Hort Innovation operations, including the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), various continuous improvement initiatives and changes to Hort Innovation's cost allocation model to increase transparency.

Based on the advice of the panel, Hort Innovation is now moving to restructure the current investment program to ensure that the dried grape R&D investment mix is better balanced and allows for current high priorities to receive funding.

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

Next steps

The panel will meet again in late 2017, probably in late November.

Hort Innovation is working to restructure the current investment program to ensure a better balanced suite of investments that covers a wider range of investment priorities.

Contact

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