

Macadamia Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 5 & 6 February 2018

Attendance: Scott Allcott, Lindsay Bryan, Graeme Fleming, Steve McLean, Paul O'Hare, Andrew Pearce, Chris Searle, Trevor Steinhardt, Kim Wilson, , Claude Gauchat (Independent Chair), Corrine Jasper, Neil Burgess, Vino Rajandran, Alok Kumar and Elisa King (Hort Innovation), Miriam O'Brien (minute taker).
Guest: Lynne Ziehlke. Apologies: Andrew Starkey and Steven Lee.

Location: Brisbane

Next Meeting: Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 August 2018

Overview

The primary focus of this meeting was to update the SIAP on the industry marketing campaign, Hort Frontiers fund investments and to review project concepts.

A presentation on the breeding projects, including the main findings and recommendations of the Chaparro review was presented to the SIAP. Meeting discussions included options for the Macadamia Industry Variety Improvement Committee (MIVIC), RVT, rootstock and genetics projects.

Alok Kumar presented the Hort Frontiers update, outlining the requirements for the projects, the current programs and their structure, as well as funding and organisational arrangements. Alok, as the Business Development Manager for Advanced Production Systems is keen to know the macadamia industry issues, particularly those likely to be important in the future. The SIAP advised that levy funds would be more wisely invested in a jointly funded industry Hort Frontiers Fund project for Tree Intensification which would also cover aspects of macadamia physiology. Additional information was also provided on the new Tree Genomics project soon to be contracted.

Lynne Ziehlke of the Australian Macadamia Society presented the marketing update and advised that the marketing plan was now three years in length (previous plans were one-year campaigns). Health and nutrition research, global supply and global kernel supply and projects that collect consumer and market data were also presented and discussed.

Concepts:

The SIAP advised that the following concepts should be progressed:

- Macadamia regional variety trials Series 4 Phase 1
- Crop Forecasting
- Benchmarking
- Nursery Standards.

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

Next steps

Hort Innovation is to progress investments for the next phase of the Macadamia Regional Variety Trials, Crop forecasting, Nursery standards and Benchmarking.

Contact

Corrine Jasper

Relationship Manager

E: corrine.jasper@horticulture.com.au

M: 0439433885