

Vegetable Industry Market and Value Chain Development Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 23rd to 25th October, 2017

Attendance: Michael Coote, Maureen Dobra, Kelvin Free, Emma Germano, Nick Macleod, Michael Nixon, Jim Trandos. Kees Versteeg, Bob Granger (Apologies: Maureen Dobra, Michael Nixon Jim Trandos, and Michael Vorrasi)

Location: West Perth

Next Meeting: Feb-March 2018

Overview

This vegetable MVCD Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) meeting covered Monday evening (23rd) and Tuesday (24th Oct.) The panel had four site visits which assisted with the panel's understanding of the current and future R&D investment concepts. The three site visits on Monday afternoon included:

- Tiger International Solutions (<http://go2tigers.com/>), a freight forwarder located near the Perth Airport. Tiger is a global logistics and transport company that specialises in bespoke supply chain solutions, e-fulfilment and transportation by air, sea and road. Because air freight is more expensive than sea freight, the horticulture products transported by Tiger include the more perishable products including strawberries and leafy greens
- Fremantle Port Authority (<http://www.fremantleports.com.au/Pages/default.aspx>) which is a Western Australian Government trading enterprise that strategically manages the Port of Fremantle. This port is Western Australia's biggest general cargo port and Australia's fourth largest container port. Fremantle Port operates on commercial principles to ensure that the needs of importers and exporters now and in the future can be met in a sustainable way with the support of customers and the community. The horticulture products shipped out of Fremantle include carrot, sweet corn, potatoes and other longer life perishable fruit and vegetables
- DP World (<http://www.dpworldaustralia.com.au/>) who are the leading container terminal stevedore in Australia.

The panel then met to review the draft vegetable Strategic Investment Plan 2017 – 2021 (SIP) and the possible implications on this panel's investment focus - being exports and value chain. The panel also discussed the next steps in finalising the SIP as it takes into consideration all of the comments received during the consultation process.

On the following day, the panel reviewed past actions and recommendations from previous panel meetings. It was noted that while older concepts may have been previously not supported by the panel, they should be kept on the list so they can be reconsidered at a later date if circumstances for the industry should change.

A summary of the finances was presented to the MVCD SIAP. This included a more transparent means of presenting Hort Innovation's costs, breaking them down to three tiers within each industry (fund). These tiers include:

- Base (normal business running costs such as the Board, governance, building, finance, etc.)
- Shared (programme delivery such as IT, procurement, trade, data and insights) and
- Fund specific (industry specific such as travel, SIAP meetings and assessment panels, specific personnel costs such as the Relationship Manager).

The panel supported the new cost model.

Michael Coote from AUSVEG presented his past and future activities and achievements through the Vegetable Export Facilitator's project VG16061. It was noted that there will be a range of R&D concepts developed from this project which will be presented to the panel in future meetings.

Andrew Duff from the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development presented further information on an innovation concept, presented initially at the May 2017 SIAP meeting. With support secured from a number of associated funding parties (other than this panel) this concept will be developed into an application to the next round of Federal Government's R&D for profit applications.

The panel reviewed and provided advice on a range of concepts on identifying high value innovation R&D, new post-harvest fumigation on the tomato-potato psyllid, exports to New Zealand, Japan and Taiwan, and packaging.

During the meeting there were various discussions on how future SIAP meetings could be improved. This feedback, along with recommendations from the recent SIAP Chairs' Forum, will be utilised as part of the continuous improvement process which Hort Innovation employs.

On Wednesday the panel visited the Perth Markets (<http://www.perthmarket.com.au/>).

Hort Innovation would like to thank Vegetables WA for their support in organising the site visits and accommodating the panel on Tuesday in the Vegetables WA Board room.

Anyone seeking further information on Hort Innovation's Vegetable Industry R&D investments should note that a full list of projects, together with an overview of the program financials will be available on the vegetable webpage of the Hort Innovation website (see: <http://horticulture.com.au/grower-focus/vegetable-fund/>).

Next steps

The next vegetable MVCD SIAP meetings will be held in either late February / March and June, at Hort Connections 2018.

Contact

For more information, please contact Brad Wells on:

T: 02 8295 2327

E: Brad.Wells@horticulture.com.au