

Vegetable Industry Development Officers

AusVeg Logo

The nations' Vegetable Industry Development Officers are currently preparing information for the National AusVeg/HRDC R&D Committee meeting in Melbourne.

The R&D meeting is the synthesis of the outcomes of grower meetings to identify R&D priorities for each state and region. The committee allocate funds for potential research from the grower levy. Project applications put forward by research institutions are evaluated and suggested for funding if the outcomes meet the grower requirements.



This is why it is imperative for all growers to have their say in the R&D priority setting meetings that occur in each state. Where research needs have been identified, but no projects put forward to address those needs, research can be commissioned with funds from the HRDC/grower levy.

If you would like to have a say on any aspect of R&D please contact your state commodity representative or the Industry Development Officer in your state.

PHOTO: R&Dmelb2.jpg

Caption: Brassica members of the HRDC/Grower levy R&D Committee from L to R
Kon Koroneos Victoria, John Cranwell SA, Michael Badcock Tasmania, Jeff McSpeddon NSW.

South Australia

Vegetable growers request 240 minor use approvals for pesticides.

PHOTO chem3.jpg

The urgent need of the vegetable industry for a national program for minor uses of pesticides was highlighted recently.

AusVeg Industry Development Officers (IDOs), including SAFF based Vegetable IDO, Craig Feutrill collected requests for minor use approvals from vegetable growers in their regions. The resulting 'Wish List' for minor use chemicals numbers 240 requests and is still growing rapidly. The



requests involve about 29 crops and 80 plus crop protection compounds. Greenhouse growers from the Murray Bridge region and field crop growers from the Northern Adelaide Plains were the most recently surveyed, adding many crops and chemicals to the minor use application system.

The recently established Crop Protection Approvals Ltd. Company, under the guidance of Dr Peter Taylor reviews the applications for permits and possible registration and closely liaises with the National Registration Authority. CPA was initiated via funds from the HRDC grower levy, after minor chemical use issues were identified by the AusVeg R&D committee.

The chemicals put up for minor use registration are analysed for duplication in other states, and cross checked against current registrations. Some chemicals will only require a 'desktop' study and permits will be allocated without the need for costly residue trials. Others may require expenditure on residue trials, and funding will be sought from industry where possible.

The applications will be assessed in order of priority, as set out by the vegetable growers.

For more information, or to apply for a permit for minor use of a chemical, contact your State Vegetable Industry Development Officer.

Contact Craig Feutrill, SA Vegetable IDO, Mobile 0418 831 089

Australian Lettuce Industry Conference 8-9 June 2000 - Determining the future of the Australian lettuce industry 8-9 June 2000, Hay, NSW

PHOTO Deruvos lettuce.jpg

Featuring:

- International and national speakers.
Topics include:
 - Integrated pest and disease management
 - Insecticide evaluation and spray application
 - Irrigation Best Management Practice
 - Sustainable production techniques and technology transfer
 - Improving export opportunities
 - QA and food safety
 - Lettuce Best Management
 - Lettuce diseases and their control
- Workshop to develop a national R&D strategy
- Field visits
- Trade Displays



Why have a national lettuce conference?

This conference will bring together people involved in *all* aspects of the lettuce industry in Australia to exchange information and to work together to develop a balanced strategy for the industry in the future.

The conference aims to:

- give insight into the lettuce industry at an international level

- provide information on current national research
- give an overview of the lettuce industry in all major growing areas within Australia
- develop a national Research and Development Strategy for the industry
- provide all stakeholders with the opportunity to have an input in the future of the industry in Australia

What will you get out of it?

- a chance to gather relevant information
- networking with others in the industry at a national level
- see where and how your AusVeg levy money is spent
- a chance to have a say about where your levy contributions will be spent in the future
- conference proceedings with notes on all presentations

*For further information contact: Dr Lynne Grbin, PO Box 5434, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650
Telephone: 02 6921 0712, Mobile: 040 789 1001, Email: lgrbin@dragnet.com.au*

Australian Vegetable Industry Development Plan – Update

As you are aware, there is currently in place a National Vegetable Industry Levy that is paid by all vegetable growers, except asparagus, potato, tomato, onion and mushroom growers, and administered and managed by the Horticultural Research & Development Corporation (HRDC) and AusVeg, the National Vegetable Body.

Previously research and development projects funded from this levy have been predominantly instigated by researchers however, AusVeg recognises that growers need to have more input into the research that is being conducted on their behalf and commissioned a project - the Australian Vegetable Industry Development Plan, which has now been completed.

We are aware that some industry groups have already begun to implement their own commodity based strategies however, CORREH Consultancies has been funded by the HRDC and AusVeg to progress the momentum generated at the South Australian Workshop and to assist the implementation of the outcomes of the Plan, as a next phase of the project.

What has this got to do with you?

The Development Plan is to be used as a blueprint for all further research and development that is to be undertaken on behalf of the industry. You need to be aware of the Plan and how you can have some input into research and development priorities for your commodity, in your region, and in your State. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that your needs are included in the National Plan.

How?

As with most industry initiatives, the success of the implementation phase of the project will be very dependent on stakeholder and local participation and ownership, particularly the relevance of the National Plan to the South Australian industry.

There will be a series of regional workshops devised to further assist industry groups within each region to identify specific concerns, then to help these groups to implement the components of the Australian Vegetable Industry Development Plan that best assist that region in reaching its full potential within the National scheme.

Where and When?

Meetings will be held in the Northern Adelaide Plains, Adelaide Hills and Riverland region in May 2000.

Details for your region's meeting are available from the SA IDO, Craig Feutrill 0418 831 089, if you have not directly been posted an invitation to attend.

This process has the added advantage of providing Craig Feutrill, the SA Vegetable Industry Development Officer with a working document that will assist him with defining a program to address the specific regional concerns and briefing notes for the Research & Development Committee members and provide you with an ongoing contact with respect to research and development.

For more information contact:

Helena Whitman, Ph/fax: (08) 93586742, Mobile 0417 175826, E-mail helenaw@wantree.com.au

Or Craig Feutrill, SA Vegetable Industry Development Officer, mobile 0418 831 089.

Victoria

The Celery Industry attempts to commission an R&D Project

PHOTO celery growers.jpg

Caption: Victorian Celery Grower Delegates at a recent R&D meeting.

Many are of the opinion that industry people should engage in initiating and commissioning R&D

projects. However, most of the projects currently funded by the levy and HRDC are the result of proposals developed by other organisations.

The Celery Industry in Victoria decided to be pro-active and developed a proposal to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) among celery growers. To commission the project the Celery Association contacted the Victorian Industry Development Officer to prepare a brief for the project.

The delegates of the leafy vegetable commodity group approved the brief during their last national meeting. The brief has now been handed to HRDC to finalise the commissioning of this project. Hopefully, the experience gained through this exercise will allow more growers to initiate other R&D projects in the future.

Contact Patrick Ulloa, Vic Vegetable IDO, Mobile 0409 403 676



Western Australia

National Carrot Conference, 25th to 27th of October, Burswood Resort, Perth, WA.

PHOTO carrot conference.jpg

Research for growers

- The conference will bring together growers, industry support people and carrot researchers.
- The program includes invited international keynote speakers
- Field trips to see carrot trials
- Consider today's innovations and research findings that will advance the carrot industry into the next decade
- Growers will see how the National Vegetable Levy is producing research results that benefit carrot producers
- The conference will provide a forum for growers to exchange ideas and talk to industry representatives and researchers



The program will focus on the following key industry areas:

- Varietal improvement
- Improving productivity
- Sustainable cropping systems
- Integrated disease management
- Organic production
- Industry promotion
- Accessing new markets
- Quality assurance
- Future directions

Cavity Spot Workshop

A technical workshop on cavity spot disease will be held during the conference

The conference is a not-to-be-missed event for everyone interested in the advancement of the Australian Carrot Industry. Delegates should include growers, research providers, advisers, consultants and agribusiness representatives.

Contact David Ellement WAVIDO Mobile 0408 941 318

Queensland

Shane Comiskey, one of the QFVG Industry Development Officers, gives a brief run-down on some of the work undertaken in his region.

1. *Carrots/Beans/Chokos/Beetroot Market Development Best Practice*

Are groups of vegetable producers who have undertaken to form alliances (formal and informal) to develop levels of understanding in management and marketing issues in order to reach standards of international best practice.

The bean growers alliance is cross-regional and may eventually involve producers from states other than Queensland

2. *Ballandean Marketing Group – Kool Country Packers*

A group of 6 producer families in the Granite Belt who undertook an examination of their current business operations in mid-1999. The outcome of these investigations was the decision to establish a group packing facility to develop critical mass to meet the changing requirements of domestic marketing. The establishment of critical mass was viewed as the best method to maintain and enhance their commercial viability.

Given that Queensland producers had in the work conducted by Sam Bray in the VIDS program stated they required assistance in the formation of groups, it was determined that the development of a real life model to examine the methods and practices required to assist a group packing operation in forming was required.

QFVG IDO's provided assistance in:

- Conducting a tour of other established group packing facilities in SE Qld to examine technical issues but also to discuss the difficulties (and successes) of working in groups. Establishing financial management and monitoring system for the packing facility and individual producers
- Facilitation of quality management systems development
- Development of a business and financial plans
- Introduction to financiers
- Completion of business registration and ancillary business and financial requirements
- Facilitation of personnel recruitment

This project was co-jointly funded by the VIDS program, other QFVG sectional groups and as a continuing consultancy between Pinnacle Management and QFVG.

The current situation is that the group obtained finance for \$0.5M, with their own capital investment approaching \$0.25M. The facility commenced operations on the 4th December.

3. *Gympie Packhouse Marketing Development Focus Group*

The Gympie Packhouse have requested the Best Practice service to conduct a diagnostic of their practices as they believe the operation is functioning less than optimally. Areas to be examined include day-to-day operations, company structuring, group dynamics and futuring. This group has agreed to be a model and case study of group relationship practices development.

4. *Gumlu Growers Alliance Diagnostic*

A group of producers from Gumlu are examining the feasibility of developing an alliance. QFVG saw the need to develop a model which examined the processes and developmental phases necessary to assist a group of producers improve the level of their operations to the level of Best Practice or close to. The Best Practice group will provide the facilitatory service to

examine future directions and underpin their skills and best practice development in order to develop their capability to exploit future product and market opportunities

Contact Shane Comiskey, QLD Vegetable IDS, Mobile 0408 135 043

List Of Contacts:

South Australia

Craig Feutrill, SA Vegetable Industry Development Officer, South Australian Farmers Federation
PO Box 6014, Halifax Street, Adelaide, SA 5000, Phone (08) 8232 5555, Fax (08) 8232 1311
Mobile 0418 831 089, Email feutrill@world-link.com.au

Robert Kennedy, Production Industry Development Officer, Northern Adelaide Plains, Virginia
Horticulture Centre
PO Box 847, Virginia, SA 5120, Phone (08) 8282 9200, Fax (08) 8380 8950, Mobile 0414 983 807
Email RKennedy@virginiahc.com.au

Lisa-Huong Nguyen, Marketing Industry Development Officer, Virginia Horticulture Centre
PO Box 847, Virginia, SA 5120, Phone (08) 8282 9200, Fax (08) 8380 8950, Mobile 0416 255 551
Email virghc@chariot.com.au

Victoria

Patrick Ulloa, Victorian Vegetable Industry Development Officer
Phone (03) 9738 0574, Fax (03) 9738 0573, Mobile 0409 403 676, Email pulloa@vgavic.org.au

Western Australia

David Ellement, WA Vegetable Industry Development Officer, MP 96, Market City, 280 Bannister
Road, Canning Vale, WA 6155. Phone (08) 9456 4077, Fax (08) 9455 2096, Mobile 0408 941 318
Email ellement@iinet.net.au

Queensland

Samantha Bray, QLD Vegetable Industry Development Officer, Brisbane Market, PO Box 19,
Rocklea, QLD, 4106, Phone (07) 3213 2444, Fax (07) 3213 2480, Mobile 0408 135 042
Email sbray@qfvg.org.au

Shane Comiskey, QLD Vegetable Industry Development Officer, Brisbane Market, PO Box 19,
Rocklea, QLD, 4106, Phone (07) 3213 2444, Fax (07) 3213 2480, Mobile 0408 135 043
Email scomisk@qfvg.org.au