

Melon Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2025/26



September 2025

Hort
Innovation

MELON
FUND

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Melon Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, melon industry representatives meet as an advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Melon Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). At these meetings, the panel is provided with a financial forecast and an investment analysis of current investments. Based on this information, they provide Hort Innovation with advice on priorities for investment for the upcoming year.

The melon R&D advisory panel met on June 11, 2025 to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2025/26. The R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1.

Note: Investments will be aligned to form multi-industry projects where possible, and all investments are subject to funding availability. If investments do not occur in this financial year, they will be reconsidered and reprioritised for the Melon Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.

Table 1. Melon R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2025/26

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Generation of data – melon residue trials, dimethoate for post-harvest use	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.9 Crop safety data
2	Priority export market insights	1. Demand creation	1.2 Market access
3	Multi-industry MRL data access and maintenance investment	1. Demand creation 5. Enabler	1.1 Export markets
4	Global scan and scoping study of melon harvesting technologies	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability 3. Extension and capability	2.2 IPDM 3.1 Extension capability 3.2 Engagement to innovate
5	Melons – UAE trade mission	1. Demand creation	1.1 Export markets
6	FIRA Oceania – Attracting AgTech manufacturers to Australia	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.2 IPDM 3.1 Extension capability 3.2 Engagement to innovate
7	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.6 Pollination
*	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2025/26 (MT242O1)	4. Business insights	4.1 Consumer insights
*	Independent mid-term review of MT22OO4 and VG22OO6 (MT24O16)	3. Extension and capability	3.1 Extension capability

Note:

* This project is a foundational investment required to support data generation, evaluation and continuous improvement, and therefore do not require advice.

Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

Current contracted projects in the Melon Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Melon SIP, can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Current contracted melon R&D project actuals at 2025/25 and forecast to 2027/28

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
MT20007	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	3,667	-	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program	57,435	41,352	49,799	-
MT21006	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	7,583	-	-	-
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program: Transition program	21,850	-	-	-
MT21009	Multi-industry export program (Vegetables, Onions and Melons)	79,297	79,297	158,593	-
MT21015	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2020/21 to 2022/23	2,193	-	-	-
MT22004	Soil wealth and integrated crop protection – phase 3	97,845	101,134	97,845	169,005
MT22005	Horticulture trade data	1,770	-	-	-
MT22008	Capturing the real and potential benefits and costs of on-farm biosecurity measures	6,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	5,004	-	-	-
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	3,773	-	-	-
MT24002	Mid-term evaluation of MT21009	8,500	-	-	-
MT24005	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	1,941	1,294	1,618	-
MT24008	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	6,093	4,062	4,062	6,093
MT24014	Horticulture partnering with the Solving Plastic Waste CRC	16,666	16,667	16,667	16,667
MT24016	Independent mid-term review of MT22004 and VG22006	1,731	6,925	-	-
MT24201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2025/26	1,425	2,850	2,850	-
VM16000	Melon industry minor use program	366	-	-	-

Table 2. continued

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
VM20003	Educating healthcare professionals on Australian melons	40,668	-	-	-
VM20005	Melon food safety – monitoring and support	168,400	-	-	-
VM21000	Melon industry roadshow and conference program	84,190	74,190	78,650	-
VM22001	Identification and management of a fungal disease complex in melons	116,615	79,004	79,004	136,681
VM22003	Melon training and leadership program	20,000	15,088	35,230	-
VM23000	Melon industry study tours	68,500	25,250	55,866	-
VM23001	Strengthening the sustainability of melon production	101,720	50,860	-	-
VM23002	Melon quality improvement program	336,400	234,000	297,600	-
VM23003	Melon Industry Communications Program	111,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
VM23910	Industry and grower consultation including SIAPs and EAPs	690	-	-	-
VM24001	Melon food safety monitoring and support – phase 2	270,721	283,369	163,594	179,421
VM24002	Melon industry technical market Access plan	4,200	-	-	-
VM24003	Building biosecurity resilience in the Australian melon industry	87,267	174,533	87,267	196,350
Total		1,733,509	1,305,875	1,244,645	820,216

Financial statements

Financial statements for the melon R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Melon R&D levy fund actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27 (as at July 1, 2024)

	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
Opening balance	1,737,195	1,581,837	1,129,984	620,275
Levies from growers	823,164	765,000	765,000	765,000
Commonwealth funds	1,026,150	1,238,066	1,278,175	1,051,920
Other income	64,133	38,212	20,975	11,036
Total income	1,913,447	2,041,278	2,064,151	1,827,956
Project funding ¹	1,733,509	1,591,589	1,359,350	977,113
Available for investment	-	500,000	800,000	800,000
Service delivery	318,792	384,543	397,001	326,726
Total matched expenditure	2,052,301	2,476,132	2,556,351	2,103,840
Federal Government levy collection costs	16,504	16,999	17,509	18,034
Annual levy cash movement	-155,358	-451,853	-509,709	-293,918
Closing balance	1,581,837	1,129,984	620,275	326,357

Note:

1. Project funding includes committed projects and projects supported by the advisory panel and currently in the process of procurement.

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