

Potato Fresh Fund Annual Investment Plan 2025/26



September 2025

**Hort
Innovation**

**POTATO –
FRESH FUND**

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Potato – Fresh Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, potato industry representatives meet as an advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Potato – Fresh 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 potato R&D advisory panel met in October 2024, as well as in May and June of 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 Potato – Fresh Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Potato sustainability – undertaking a life cycle analysis	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.2 Precision input management
1	Biosecurity preparedness strategy for the potato industry	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.3 Biosecurity preparedness
2	Accelerating adoption of AWM-IPDM systems in vegetable, onion and potato growing regions	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.1 Integrated pest and disease management (IPDM)
2	National coordination for agrichemical access and risk management for the Australian vegetable sector	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.3 Biosecurity preparedness 2.4 SARP 2.6 Regulatory support 2.7 Crop safety data
3	Potato workforce training and leadership program	1. Extension and capability	1.3 Industry leadership
3	Healthy horticulture: health care education program for edible horticulture	3. Consumer demand	3.1 Consumer demand
4	High school education resources	1. Extension and capability	1.2 Engagement to innovate
4	Printing and future-proofing key vegetable, onion and potato industry resources	1. Extension and capability	1.1 Extension capability

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Potato – Fresh Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the potato SIP, can be seen in Table 2. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 2. Current contracted fresh potato R&D project actuals at 2024/25 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)	2,514	-	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program	18,408	13,253	15,961	-
MT21006	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	7,583	-	-	-
MT21015	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	2,376	-	-	-
MT24005	Horticulture trade data	1,578	-	-	-
MT22012	Industry preparedness for exotic root knot nematode (<i>Meloidogyne enterolobii</i>)	7,800	9,100	-	-
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	3,961	-	-	-
MT24005	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	1,547	1,032	1,289	-
MT24007	Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia (2024-2029)	2,550	1,350	1,405	1,463
MT24008	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	4,177	2,785	2,785	4,177
MT24012	Accelerating adoption of Area Wide-Integrated Crop Management in vegetable, onion and potato growing regions	6,600	26,400	-	-
MT24015	One Survey for vegetable, onion and potato levy funded projects	913	6,365	857	857
MT24023	National Agrichemical Management Program	-	20,567	10,284	10,284
MT24201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2025/26	1,346	2,692	2,692	-
PT16005	Potato industry minor use program	750	-	-	-



Table 2. continued

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
PT20000	Australian potato industry communication and extension project	242,625	125,625	-	-
PT23000	World Potato Congress 2024	49,530	-	-	-
PT23002	Spotlighting spuds for International Day of the Potato	401,922	171,243	401,921	722,255
PT23910	Industry advice and grower consultation	1,475	-	-	-
PT24001	Potato sustainability – undertaking a life cycle assessment	29,637	59,150	59,400	-
PT24910	Industry advice and grower consultation	19,236	-	-	-
Total		806,529	439,561	496,593	739,036

Financial statements

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

Table 3. Fresh potato R&D levy fund actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2027/28 (as at July 1, 2025)

	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
Opening balance	1,645,093	1,945,936	1,838,950	1,602,001
Levies from growers	729,749	650,000	660,000	660,000
Commonwealth funds	474,440	791,181	922,293	1,008,927
Other income	72,711	62,187	54,174	42,818
Total income	1,276,900	1,503,368	1,636,467	1,711,745
Project funding ¹	806,529	1,145,008	1,267,898	1,415,175
Available for investment	-	200,000	300,000	300,000
Service delivery	142,352	237,354	276,688	302,678
Total matched expenditure	948,881	1,582,362	1,844,586	2,017,853
Federal Government levy collection costs	27,176	27,991	28,831	29,696
Annual levy cash movement	300,843	-106,986	-236,950	-335,804
Closing balance	1,945,936	1,838,950	1,602,001	1,266,196

Note:

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



DISCLAIMER:

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Hort Innovation) makes no representations and expressly disclaims all warranties (to the extent permitted by law) about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of any information published or made available by Hort Innovation in relation to this publication. Your access, use and reliance on any information published or made available by Hort Innovation is entirely at your own risk. The information published or made available by Hort Innovation does not take into account your personal circumstances and you should make your own independent enquiries before making any decision concerning your interests or those of another party or otherwise relying on the information.

Hort Innovation is not responsible for, and will not be liable for, any loss (including indirect or consequential loss), damage, claim, expense, cost (including legal costs) or other liability arising in any way, including from any Hort Innovation or other person's negligence or otherwise from your use or non-use of this publication, or from reliance on information contained in the material or that Hort Innovation makes available to you by any other means.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE:

Copyright © Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited 2025

Copyright subsists in this publication. Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited (Hort Innovation) owns the copyright in the publication, other than as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth). Copying in whole or in part of this publication is prohibited without the prior written consent of Hort Innovation.

Any request or enquiry to use this publication should be addressed to:

Communications Manager

Hort Innovation

Level 7, 141 Walker Street

North Sydney NSW 2060

Australia

Email: communications@horticulture.com.au

Phone: 02 8295 2300



Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited
ACN 602 100 149

www.horticulture.com.au