

Final Report

Regional capacity building to grow vegetable businesses – Southern Queensland

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Delivery partner:

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc.

Project code:

VG15041

Project:

Regional capacity building to grow vegetable businesses – Southern Queensland VG15041

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Summary

VG 15041 is one of ten projects that was supported by VG15049 – National Coordination and Linkages Project (VegNET). VG 15041 - *Regional capacity building to grow vegetable businesses – Southern Queensland* (which was later referred to as VegNET-Southern Queensland) was designed to provide regional capacity building services for the vegetable producers across Southern Queensland. The region encompasses the key vegetable growing areas of the Lockyer Valley, Granite Belt, Fassifern Valley, Logan/Greenbank and the Darling Downs. The project was commissioned in May 2016 to the Lockyer Valley Growers Incorporated (LVG) and concluded in May 2019.

An Industry Development Officer (IDO) was employed to execute the objectives of the project and to assist the horticultural producers throughout the region. Two IDO's were employed during the term of the project – Ms Leonie Brassey followed by Mr Pat Salter.

Key outcomes from the project include:

- 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo – attracting more than 1500 attendees and 80 industry exhibitors
- Implementation of 35 key capacity building events including farm walks and seminars with more than 1075 attending these events
- Development and distribution of 12 hard copy newsletters to more than 250 people each time and production of seven “fact sheets” which were distributed to growers and made available online to address priority issues
- Establishment of an e-newsletter “Weekly Update” that utilized an innovative method for highlighting pest pressure in key growing areas
- Engagement with vegetable growers from Language other than English (LOTE) backgrounds (primarily Vietnamese) in both Gatton and Logan/Greenbank areas
- Disaster management and assistance across the the whole region including significant flooding events as a result from Ex Tropical Cyclone Debbie (Logan/Greenbank, Lockyer Valley), significant hail event (Fassifern Valley) and drought (Granite Belt, Darling Downs, Lockyer Valley).
- Implementation of specific young-farmer engagement activities involving more than 52 producers and other young industry vegetable industry representatives.

Keywords

VegNET, Industry Development Officer – Southern Queensland, IDO Southern Queensland, disaster assistance, vegetable extension and capacity building, Lockyer Valley Growers Inc,

Introduction

The Lockyer Valley represents 12-14% of the Queensland agricultural economy and is valued at more than \$285m which typically accounts for 25% of total Queensland horticultural production. The area supplies the majority of Australia's vegetable requirements during the winter months and is also recognized as an important producer of year-round, high value fresh food for the growing population in South-East Queensland, Australia and the export markets of Asia and the Middle-East.

The Lockyer valley is one of the highest levy paying regions in Australia with 95% of production focussed on corn, beans, lettuce, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cabbages, baby leaf and bunching lines. Furthermore, the vegetable industry across the South East Queensland (SEQ) is valued at more than \$549m and vegetables across the Darling and Southern Downs valued at \$146.5m. The collective value of the vegetable industry across the whole Southern Queensland region is therefore just under \$700 million (ABS 2017/18). This region produces significant national supply of vegetables including: beetroot (85%), Herbs (parsley, coriander, basil) 46%, Lettuce 35%, Spinach 32%, Broccoli 27%, Cauliflower 26%, Celery 24% and Cabbage 24%. Other major crops include pumpkins, corn, beans, carrots and cucumbers.

In January, 2011, the Lockyer Valley experienced extreme rainfall and flooding culminating in an overpowering flash flood commonly referred to as an "inland tsunami". Tragically, 19 people lost their lives in the Lockyer Valley. The physical impact was everywhere with scarred creeks, inundated and washed away vegetable paddocks as well as houses, businesses, packing sheds and workshops significantly damaged or destroyed. The flood also had a significant impact on the social wellbeing of the community. The 2011 floods were also followed by significant flooding in 2013 and although no loss of life was recorded it is suggested this flood was more detrimental to vegetable horticultural production in the valley.

These two major climatic catastrophes and the associated physical and emotional isolation suffered by many producers was a major impetus for the establishment of the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. The Lockyer Valley Growers Inc (LVG) was formed in late 2013 to provide a platform for issues, challenges and opportunities to be voiced, listened to and acted on through practical and farmer friendly solutions.

The group has a current membership of over 70 grower members with a broad mix of different farming models including small family operated businesses to large multi-location super-businesses and everything in between. The LVG membership covers approximately 80% of the vegetable growing area in the Lockyer Valley and also includes vegetable growers in the broader Southern Queensland area including Gold Coast, Fassifern Valley, Southern and Darling Downs.

The group is managed on a day-to-day basis by a 100% voluntary committee of all levy paying vegetable producers.

The Lockyer Valley Growers Inc has received considerable support from 19 local
Lockyer Valley Growers Inc

and international corporate partners that identify the region to be a major focus for their business. These partners are involved in all aspects of the vegetable supply chain including machinery, agronomic, seed distribution, packaging and processing, transport, marketing, finance and export.

Prior to the development and implementation of this project, the volunteer committee coordinated and implemented various activities including quarterly networking and learning seminars, a gala dinner attracting more than 420 people and the development and distribution of a regular industry focused newsletter.

A major gap, however, was a lack of dissemination of individual vegetable Hort Innovation R&D projects and other industry initiatives that benefit the vegetable industry across the whole Southern Queensland region. Furthermore, Hort Innovation didn't have a strong regional presence in the region without any Industry Development Officers operating in the region.

Methodology

The key objectives of this project were to:

- Deliver regional capacity building services to the vegetable industry in Southern Queensland
- To increase knowledge of vegetable R&D and facilitate the adoption by vegetable businesses in Southern Queensland
- To increase the reach of the vegetable R&D program by engaging stakeholders in the vegetable value chain and developing trusted relationships at a regional level
- To provide linkages to the national industry communication services (VG15027), National Vegetable Training initiative (VegPRO – VG15028) and other Hort Innovation projects

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc identified a number of key strategic activities that were critical to address the project objective.

1. Implementation of the 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo – 27/28 July 2016.

A Project Officer (Ms Leonie Brassey) was employed to oversee the coordination of the Expo and support the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc with hosting an Industry dinner during the event. The recruitment followed an open and transparent recruitment process and the officer was initially engaged in a part-time capacity and then on a sliding scale to full-time just prior to the execution of the event. The position was responsible for the following activities:

- a. Coordination of exhibitors requirements for the Expo

- b. Linkages with the Expo Communications officer to ensure wide reach of expo promotional activity
- c. Coordination of regional newsletter for distribution throughout Southern Queensland
- d. Coordination of locally relevant capacity building seminar

This position was reviewed in August 2016 and a recruitment process was undertaken for the specific role of Industry Development Officer.

2. Employment of a Southern Queensland Industry Development Officer

The Southern Queensland Vegetable Industry Development Officer position description was established and an advertising and recruitment process undertaken (refer to Appendix 1 for a copy of the Position Description). Executive members from Lockyer Valley Growers Inc, Growcom and Hort Innovation staff were active in the process which involved assessment of written applications and a two stage interview process. Following this open and transparent recruitment process, the preferred candidate (Mr Pat Salter) with financial management expertise and qualifications in environmental management was engaged.

3. Establishment of a Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee was established in 2017 with representatives from each of the growing areas represented. The Steering Committee met either via teleconference or face to face periodically to provide strategic direction regarding the activities of the project and to ensure regional distribution of activities (Refer to Appendix 2 for an example of the minutes from these meetings). The membership of the Project Steering Committee is:

- a. Michael Sippel (Lockyer Valley Growers - President)
- b. Kerry Hauser (Lockyer Valley)
- c. Tim Carnell (Granite Belt)
- d. Tony Gibb (Fassifern Valley)
- e. Anthony Staatz (Darling Downs)

4. Capacity Building and Extension

The cornerstone to the project was the coordination of regional capacity building services to broker and share R&D information and increase knowledge of vegetable R&D including innovation and technological opportunities. Key to the implementation of this activity was developing regional, state and national networks and coordinating extension activities to address industry priorities across the whole vegetable value chain. Furthermore, the project aimed to link existing Hort Innovation initiatives and projects with Southern Queensland vegetable producers. Key tools utilized include:

- Direct linkages, relationships and coordination with Hort Innovation Projects including:

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc

- VG12024: Vietnamese Field Officer for the Western Australian Vegetable Industry (support with basic Vietnamese interpretation of meeting invitations)
- VG15024: Vision systems, sensing and sensor works (workshops advertised in newsletter)
- VG15003: Using autonomous systems to guide vegetable decision making (field day coordination, advertised in newsletter)
- VG:14025: Postharvest practices that will increase the shelf life of fresh vegetables (presentation at seminars)
- VG:13076: Soil condition management (targeted information to specific producers)
- VG12115: Integrating sustainable soil health practices into vegetable farming operations (targeted information to specific producers)
- VG15008: Viruses of national importance (targeted information to specific producers)
- VG14063: Innovative solutions to tospoviruses (targeted information to specific producers)
- VG15064: Improved management of pumpkin brown etch (presentation at seminars and inclusion of information into newsletter)
- VG16009: Adoption of precision systems technology (presentation at seminars and inclusion of information into newsletter)
- VG16061: Vegetable Industry Export Program (presentation at seminars)
- Individual farm visits by IDO
- Referring (signposting) producers to key industry experts in various fields including pest and disease, precision agriculture, consumer analysis, labour management, export development, chemical advances, irrigation and environmental monitoring, climate and long term weather forecasting, post-harvest management techniques, on-farm machinery innovations including spray and planting technologies
- Keeping producers informed using various methods regarding funding and grant opportunities to enhance their opportunities for greater business growth
- Field days, seminars and shed talks
- Specific young grower and Language other than English engagement activities
- Written information dissemination including hard-copy newsletter, e-newsletter weekly update and fact sheets
- Professional development for the IDO via shared learning through networking activities including attendance at Hort Connections and APEN Conferences as well as through national VegNET teleconferences, Statewide Vegetable Extension Network (SVEN) and other mechanisms.

Outputs

1. 2016 National Horticultural Innovation Expo (27-28 July, 2016) (refer to appendix 3 for more detailed analysis of the Expo)
 - a. Attendance to the event exceeded 1500 people across two days.
 - b. 52 % of attendees where from outside the Lockyer Valley region.
 - c. 93% of the attendees surveyed would attend another event like the expo.
 - d. The event was supported by 80 industry related exhibitors that provides products or services specifically associated with the Southern Queensland vegetable industry
 - e. Ten international seed companies showcased more than 500 different varieties of vegetables and herbs.
 - f. Five media releases were developed and distributed prior to the event to more than 200 media outlets.
 - g. 44 media outlets picked up and published these releases including large multi-page spreads in Good Fruit and Vegetables Magazine and the Gatton Star.
2. Extension field days, farm walks and seminars – the target for the project was 18 spread across the Southern Queensland region (refer to appendix 4 for a full breakdown of events, timing and location).
 - a. 35 formal events were implemented throughout the region
 - b. More than 1075 people (mostly vegetable levy producers) attended these events
 - c. A further seven events were supported via communication to producers in Southern Queensland and were conducted specifically by Hort Innovation vegetable R&D project providers alone:
 - i. From Precision to Decision: Dec 2016
 - ii. Post harvest management of vegetables: Feb 2017
 - iii. Nielsen Consumer Analysis: August 2017
 - iv. Veg Innovation: July 2018
 - v. VegPRO: July 2018
 - vi. Managing Brassicas: February 2019
 - vii. Managing lettuce: February 2019
3. Newsletters
 - a. 12 hard-copy quarterly newsletters were coordinated, published and distributed to approximately 250 vegetable producers in Southern Queensland. Refer to <http://lockyervalleygrowers.com.au/newsletters/> for copies. Additional versions produced in 2018/19 will be made available on the website as soon as possible.
 - b. Each of these newsletters included a variety of articles focused on new R&D or innovations in the industry and included articles and details on:

- i. Hort Innovation vegetable levy funded projects
- ii. Machinery advances
- iii. New innovative packaging and post-harvest advances
- iv. Export market develop opportunities
- v. Funding and grant availability

4. Fact Sheets

- a. A total of seven fact sheets were approved for use and distribution to vegetable producers in Southern Queensland.
 - i. 15 fact sheets were contracted, however, growers indicated verbally that they did not value this activity and fact sheets did not rate at all during the end of project VegNET survey. 17 additional field days, seminars and workshops were held to address vegetable growers learning styles and preferences and address the gap left by not developing the fact sheets. The large attendance rate at these events (an average of 30 at each event) is evidence to suggest this extension and information sharing format is preferred.
- b. An additional fact sheet was produced and disseminated widely to key vegetable producers and key agronomic advisory staff in the Southern Queensland region to support the industry adoption of the Group 28 chemistry Diamondback Moth Resistance strategy.
- c. Each of these fact sheets are available at:
<http://lockyervalleygrowers.com.au/current-projects/>

5. Weekly Updates

- a. This was an email based communication activity that was sent out on a weekly basis to highlight key issues, information or upcoming events
- b. It was distributed to an audience of 297 contacts. Only those on the mailing list were in a position to access the update.
 - i. The “Weekly Feed” highlighted upcoming events and activities and as such has not been uploaded on the organisations webpage because the information would be outdated.
- c. An innovative feature of this was a traffic light depiction of pest pressure based on collective data from the regional agronomists.

6. Media and social media

- a. More than six media releases were developed and distributed to all locally relevant media and industry outlets (refer to attachment).
 Note: this doesn’t include the media coverage associated with the Expo.

- b. Lockyer Valley Growers has 1130 followers on their facebook page which is a tool used to highlight upcoming events, key issues and project activities
- c. The website obtains approximately 600 hits per annum

Outcomes

This project contributed to the overall Australian vegetable regional capacity building program outcomes by delivering activities throughout Southern Queensland. The outcomes of the VG15041 project are:

Delivery of regional capacity building services to the vegetable industry in Southern Queensland

A total of 2575 people have been directly engaged with, and actively participating in, an event implemented and coordinated as a result of this project.

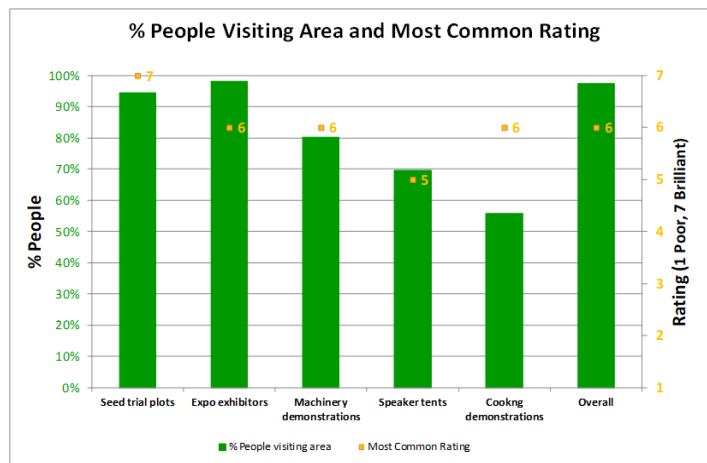
- The 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo was the first of its kind held in Queensland for at least 16 years.
 - 1500 people attended the 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo
 - Provided a platform for vegetable producers to make informed decisions regarding preferred varieties for future seasons with more than 500 different varieties showcased by ten international seed companies
 - Provided a one-stop-shop exhibitor area for all things focused on vegetable production with 80 exhibitors showcasing a broad range of products and services targeted at the vegetable industry
 - Three speakers tents provided the opportunity for more than 50 technical presentations to be conducted during the Expo covering a range of R&D initiatives and projects
 - Hort Innovation activities were highlighted at the event both directly (VG150003) or indirectly by inclusion into the speakers tents. Hort Innovation funded projects that were incorporated include: VG15024, VG13004, VG15008, VG14010, VG10104, VG07081, VG12103, VG15003, VG13113 and VG13048.
- 35 formal events were conducted under this project (nearly double that was contracted) in addition to the seven stand alone Hort Innovation project activities that were conducted in the region at various times.
 - This means each workshop, seminar or training activity had an average of approximately 30 people in attendance

- 1075 vegetable producers and industry representatives participated in these activities
 - Two activities were specifically targeted at the next generation with 52 vegetable producers and those involved in the supply chain participating in these activities.
- In-line with addressing people with different learning styles and preferences, more than 250 people were directly sent the quarterly regional hard-copy newsletter and almost 300 people received the e-newsletter called the “Weekly Feed”. Furthermore, with 1130 followers on the facebook social media site, meant there were many more people being exposed to regular updates regarding key industry activities, issues and opportunities.

To increase knowledge of vegetable R&D and facilitate the adoption by vegetable businesses in Southern Queensland

- The 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo provided the opportunity for ten international seed companies to showcase their latest varieties and breeding programs by planting more than 500 varieties of vegetables and herbs. Furthermore the Expo provided a regional opportunity for more than 80 organisations and businesses involved in the vegetable industry supply chain to exhibit at the expo and present using one of the three speakers tents available. Key exhibitors addressed the following themes:
 - Precision agriculture technology – drone mapping, yield mapping, variable rate technology, GPS guided systems
 - Product packaging, data-logging and tracking opportunities
 - Agronomic and pest and disease management options and innovations including robotics and automation systems
 - Seed, seedling and pre-planting technologies including retractable greenhouses
 - Irrigation and environmental monitoring including new water use efficiency technologies
 - Farm and staff management decision support tools and training programs

The Seed variety showcase was by far the real drawcard of the Expo, with the exhibitor space and speakers tents both evaluated as a lower rating.

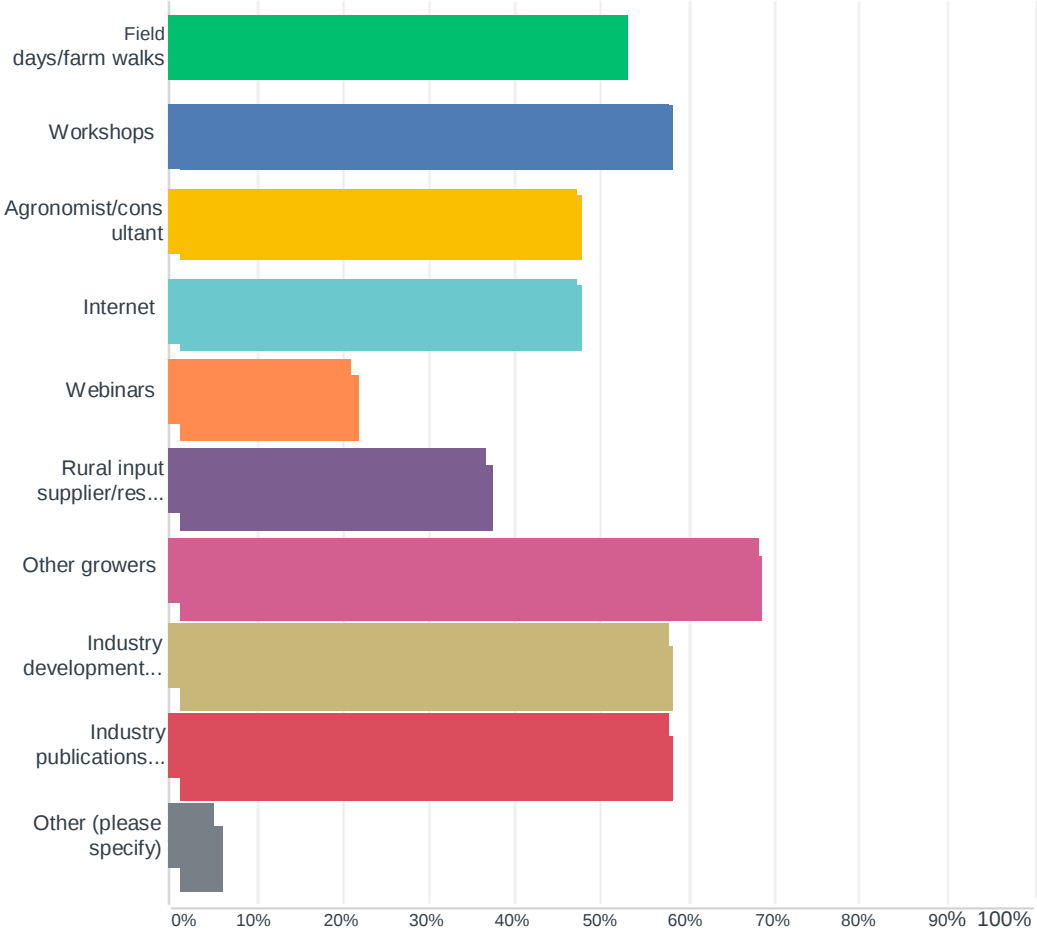


- The 35 formal events were conducted under this project attracted a combined total of 1075 vegetable producers and industry representatives.
- The quarterly hard-copy regional newsletter and e-newsletter based “Weekly Feed” provided a good platform for the distribution of written technical material. Many of the articles included in the newsletter reflected verbal presentations from seminars and shed talks. Furthermore, with 1130 followers on the facebook social media site meant that there were many more people being exposed to regular updates regarding key industry activities, issues and opportunities.
- The traffic light depiction of pest pressure in the Weekly Feed was an innovative tool utilizing the combined on-ground intelligence from private agronomists operating in the region. This tool was a key outcome from the collaborative effort coordinated by Lockyer Valley Growers to address Diamondback Moth resistance to current available group 28 chemistry.

The traffic light depiction tool provided a simple method for growers and other industry stakeholders to easily understand what is normally considered a very complex issue. Anecdotal evidence indicates that this tool and the Diamondback Moth Resistance Strategy both have strong support and adoption across Southern Queensland.

- Funding and grants summary were included as part of workshops, seminars, newsletter articles and the weekly feed to encourage producers to utilize other alternative investment opportunities to help adopt innovative technologies.
- Two specific next generation young farmers activities were conducted which involved more than 52 young farmers and young people involved in the supply chain. Both “Next-Gen” activities focused on providing tours to broaden the participants knowledge of farming systems, packaging innovations and the supply chain.

The following graph, taken from the “End of Project VegNET” survey provides a snapshot of feedback regarding preferences by vegetable growers and industry representatives for obtaining R&D information (refer to appendix 6 for the report in its entirety). It indicates that that field days, farm walks, networking with other growers and industry publications are the preferred method for engagement. This strongly reflects the engagement and information delivery methods implemented by this project.



Furthermore, 68% of respondents indicated that as a result of the VegNET activities they have made changes to work practices or adopted new technologies. Key responses from growers regarding changes they have made include:

- “By increased learning and interaction with other Growers have changed a few of our business practices”
- “I have shared information with my employees and growing partners throughout the valley”
- “Diamond back moth, work place health and safety issues”
- “Continued market development projects incl export”
- “Far better understanding of chemical rotation and adopting and helping educate growers on using beneficial insects in their crops. KAFTA project was hugely successful for local leafy veg growers”

To increase the reach of the vegetable R&D program by engaging stakeholders in the vegetable value chain and developing trusted relationships at a regional level

- The 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo provided the opportunity for key stakeholders in the whole vegetable value chain to come together and showcase their latest varieties, technologies, equipment and services.
 - The 90 commercial businesses directly involved in the vegetable industry exhibited at the expo (incorporating ten international seed companies and other organisations and businesses involved in the vegetable industry supply chain)
 - More than 50 presentations were made in one of three speakers tents discussing relevant industry projects and issues.
 - More than 480 growers and industry representatives attended the “Farm to Fork” industry dinner which was implemented as a social option of the 2016 Expo. This provided a great occasion for producers to network and showcase the variety of fresh produce grown in the region.
 - Glen Barratt, Head Chef at “Wild Canary Botanical Bistro”, demonstrated how easy it was to cook and eat using local fresh produce from the Lockyer Valley at the “Love My Salad” tent
 - The media profile developed because of the event highlighted the Lockyer Valley as horticultural and agricultural region in Queensland and interstate. More than 44 media outlets published articles about the expo including two large pull-out spreads (Good Fruit and Vegetable Magazine and Gatton Star).
- The Lockyer Valley Growers held 35 farm walks, seminars and workshops and each one of these incorporated presentations from a variety of sources including Hort Innovation, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, chemical and fertilizer representatives, machinery and innovative technology including drones,

environmental and water monitoring equipment and technologies, sustainable and innovative packing options including data logging and tracking, biosecurity management as well as labour management including workplace, health and safety.

- Four events that were very well attended were targeted at engaging with vegetable growers from an Language other than English (Vietnamese) background.
 - Two seminars were conducted at Gatton with more than 80 growers and representatives in attendance (refer to appendix 4). Key topics presented included managing pests and diseases in cucumber, on-farm biosecurity, residue compliance and management and identification of cucumber green mottle mosaic virus.
 - Two workshops were conducted in the Logan/Greenbank/Chambers Flat region following significant flooding impacts as a result of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. These workshops attracted more than 90 people - mostly cucumber producers. Key discussion points at these workshops were the variety of financial and social support assistance measures available.
- The quarterly hard-copy regional newsletter and e-newsletter called the “Weekly Feed” provided a good platform for the distribution of written material specific to vegetable producers in Southern Queensland. Many of the articles included in the newsletter reflected verbal presentations from seminars and shed talks and covered a variety of topics including Hort Innovation funded projects, Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries projects, new chemical and fertilizer options, machinery and innovative technology including drones, environmental and water monitoring equipment and technologies, sustainable and innovative packing options including data logging and tracking and biosecurity management.

To provide linkages to the national industry communication services (VG15027), National Vegetable Training initiative (VegPRO – VG15028) and other Hort Innovation projects

- Hort Innovation activities were highlighted at the 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo. Projects such as VG15003 were promoted directly via the Hort Innovation exhibitor space. Other projects were promoted indirectly via the inclusion into the speakers tents including the following projects: VG15024, VG13004, VG15008, VG14010, VG10104, VG07081, VG12103, VG15003, VG13113 and VG13048.
- The Southern Queensland IDO provided a local and regional presence of Hort Innovation in the region. The IDO was very clear when speaking with vegetable producers, stakeholders and other agricultural industry representatives, that it was Hort Innovation under the VegNET program that funded the position and it was specifically focused on the vegetable industry in Southern Queensland

- The project provided significant opportunities for other Hort Innovation vegetable levy projects to be communicated and extended in Southern Queensland. All Hort Innovation projects had the opportunity to present a regular grower seminar and include project information into the quarterly newsletter.
- Hort Innovation funded projects that have been incorporated into the extension activities under this project including newsletters, “Weekly Feed” and seminars include: VG16009, VG16086, VG18001, VG17014, VG15010, VG15024, VG16085, VG16061, VG15064, VG15701, VG14062, VG16067 and VG13706.
- Key Hort Innovation projects that conducted specific and stand alone activities in the region but coordinated and communicated through this project were :
 - From Precision to Decision: Dec 2016
 - Post harvest of vegetables: Feb 2016
 - Nielsen Consumer Analysis: August 2017
 - Veg Innovation: July 2018
 - VegPRO: July 2018
 - Managing Brassicas: February 2019
 - Managing lettuce: February 2019

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation was conducted throughout all aspects of this project. The Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan established at the beginning of the project provided the detailed framework for this activity. The key aspects to the evaluation addressed the 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo, individual VegNET events and activities and the IDO position and project as a whole.

- 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo
 - The National Horticultural and Innovation Expo was held on 27-28th July 2016 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Gatton Research Facility and the adjoining University of Queensland site.
 - More than 1500 growers, industry representatives and students attended the expo and 480 attended the industry dinner. Just over 500 attendees were from the local area, just under 800 were from other parts of Queensland.
 - The Expo provided significant networking and linking opportunities for those involved in the whole supply chain for horticulture and vegetable production.
 - The “next generation” of scientists, farm workers, machinery designers and operators, engineers, sales and marketing people were also engaged through the 200 or more school and university students that attended.
 - More than 64% of attendees came from outside the local Lockyer Valley, which was therefore a great opportunity to showcase the region

- 93% indicated they would return again if the Expo is held again in the future
- (refer to Appendix 3 for more details)
- 35 farm walks, seminars and workshops (refer to appendix 7 for examples of feedback and photos from some of the workshops and seminars)
 - Formal attendance numbers for seminars and workshops was high with an average of 30 producers and industry representatives in attendance across more than 35 events. Although “attendance” is not a synonym for adoption, vegetable producers and industry associates are generally too busy to attend events and seminars if they do not see real value. As such, it should be recognized that the seminars and workshops associated with the project was providing value to vegetable industry in Southern Queensland.
 - Feedback from the initial series of seminars conducted at Stanthorpe, Toowoomba and Gatton provided the following intelligence regarding growers technical and business priorities. The top three themes identified were agronomy and crop protection options, new technologies (including precision agriculture, robotics and intelligent apps) as well as new export market development.
 - Trade statistics (www.trademap.org) indicate that the export of brassica vegetables from Australia to South Korea (Republic of Korea) has increased from a \$0 value in June 2017 to a value of \$604,000 June 2019. This significant increase can be directly attributed to the extension activities (newsletter articles, fact sheet and seminar presentations) conducted under this project. Qualipac, Mulgowie Farming Company and Rugby Farming Group have led this vegetable export growth.
 - Feedback received from the two young farmers activities was extremely positive with the following remarks:
 - 90% of participants found the Brisbane Markets floor tour “very or extremely useful”
 - The Woolworths Distribution Centre and Brisbane Markets tour were identified as individual highlights by many of the participants.
 - Tim Moffatt from the Woolworths Distribution Centre remarked “It was a really good group of passionate growers who were very interested in the tour and asked some great questions”.
 - 63% indicated they would make changes to their business as a result of participating in the Young Growers activity
 - Obtaining formal evaluation from the LOTE (Language other than English) workshops was difficult due to the communication and interpretation difficulties. Informal feedback using photos, private discussions following events and attendance numbers provides an alternate evaluation process which has indicated:
 - Strong overall interest by the Vietnamese growing community to participate in extension activities targeted specifically at their community, farming systems and crops

- Representatives throughout the supply chain (seed distributors, chemical reps etc) are very keen to participate and encourage their growers to attend and participate.
 - Utilising resources that have been translated into Vietnamese from a variety of sources provides more meaning and stronger engagement than providing resources in English alone.
- Collectively, the feedback from the various workshops, shed talks and seminars indicates that 73.1% of attendees found the events “very or extremely useful”.
- Overall, there is a mixed response in the final feedback regarding action taken as a result of attending and participating in a VegNET event ranging from 62% to 100%.
- A final VegNET Southern Queensland evaluation was conducted using electronic survey - Survey Monkey (refer to appendix 6). The response rate was extremely low (18 people). This can be attributed to a number of factors including a history of low participation by growers in electronic feedback processes, time of year with both summer and winter crops being planted and harvested as well as minimal follow up to encourage participation. The information provided from this process can still be considered useful for providing some guidance towards a future approach, however, should not be used to make conclusive decisions. Key outcomes from this activity are:
 - The top three issues in the region were identified as: water availability/ climate management, workforce and labour management and financial support and management.
 - As a result of VegNET activities 68% indicate they have made changes to their business
 - The Diamondback Moth Resistance Management Strategy and export development activity (KAFTA) is referenced as key VegNET activities that led to action
 - 63% are planning further changes including improved IPM, water management and technology
 - Information about production and farm management issues is obtained in the following preferred ways:
 - 55% field days, farm walks and workshops
 - 47% from agronomists, consultants, internet
 - 57% Vegetable IDO, industry publications and newsletters
 - The Southern Queensland VegNET project was rated as important or very important by 89% of respondents and 100% see value in the VegNET project continuing beyond 2019.
 - Key individual comments:
 - I have shared information with my employees and growing partners throughout the valley
 - Continue to run grower workshops both in the Lockyer Valley and Stanthorpe on different topics

- R&D in the vegetable industry is not just done by HIA so it is good to get a balance of levy funded R&D and also private R&D including machinery advances, precision agriculture, new chemical and IMP advances etc.
- Growers in our area have benefited greatly from the Lockyer Valley Growers IDO
- The Lockyer and Fassifern Valley, as well as the coastal, Darling Downs and Stanthorpe regions are significant levy paying regions. These regions certainly need an IDO going forward.
- Our local IDO has brought people together on a whole new level. Our growers are talking, sharing ideas with each other. Helping each other in difficult circumstances (Drought/Flood etc).

Recommendations

1. Combining Hort Innovation R&D with private and other Government funded R&D achieves greater grower interest than Hort Innovation projects alone.
2. Engaging with the Language Other than English (Vietnamese) vegetable producers in the Lockyer Valley and Greenbank/Logan is time consuming but definitely required. There is significant opportunity for upskilling these growers.
3. Old school “personal” engagement strengthened with modern technology to communicate (text, social media) achieves the best outcomes in terms of active participation by vegetable producers
4. Combining technical information presentations with a social networking opportunity encourages the establishment of a strong and resilient industry.

Refereed scientific publications

Nil

References

<Insert content – provide a list of publications and information sources referred to in the Final Report. If there are no references or information sources, delete this section>

Intellectual property, commercialisation and confidentiality

No project IP, project outputs, commercialisation or confidentiality issues to report

Acknowledgements

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc.

Mr Michael Sippel

Mrs Sharron Windolf

Mr Anthony Staatz

Growcom

Queensland Horticultural Council

Queensland Farmers Federation

Brismark

Appendices

Appendix 1

IDO Position Description



Southern Queensland Industry Development Officer Position Description

About Lockyer Valley Growers Inc

The Lockyer Valley Growers Inc (LVG) was formally established in December 2013 as a means for the fruit and vegetable growers in the area to unite and work together. They aim to support initiatives and projects which benefit the growers of the Lockyer and provide a united voice for horticulture in the region. Further, the group aims to create opportunities for social interactions, networking and promote education and training programs. The group is open to all fruit and vegetable producers growing produce in the Lockyer Valley and is managed on a day-to-day basis by a 100% voluntary committee.

Description and Purpose of Position

The Southern Queensland Industry Development Officer (IDO) is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia as part of the National Vegetable Extension Network. The position will provide extension and industry development services to the vegetable growers throughout South-East Queensland, with a focus on the Lockyer Valley, Darling Downs, Granite Belt, Fassifern Valley and Greenbank/Logan areas. Specific project objectives and KPI's are identified in the project and annually include:

- Implementation of six workshops or seminars throughout the region
- Publication of four newsletters and distribution to vegetable growers throughout the region
- Development of fact sheets and other extension material for vegetable growers
- And other event and field day coordination, digital and media communication

Responsibilities and Duties

- Development and implementation of an annual event management plan including extension, industry development and communication activities.
- Facilitate communication between key stakeholders including Lockyer Valley Growers Inc, vegetable growers in SEQ, Growcom, AusVeg, DAF (Queensland Government) , Department of Agriculture (Federal Government) and Horticulture Innovation Australia.
- Work with a project steering committee representing growers from each of the districts to identify their priority needs, develop programs and activities to address these needs and act as an information hub.
- Undertake coordination and day to day management of events including quarterly information sessions, small information sharing field days and the large horticultural expo/field day
- Oversee public relations activities including website management, facebook, twitter and coordinate other forms of publicity through traditional media channels including radio, newspaper and television.

- Adhere to all policies and procedures developed by the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc including the Code of Conduct.

Core competencies and experience (selection criteria)

1. Highly developed written and oral communication skills including providing clear and concise advice to project Steering Committee, Lockyer Valley Growers Committee and grower liaison
2. Demonstrated ability in stakeholder engagement and management including internal and external people and organisations
3. Demonstrated experience working with agricultural producers to achieve industry development outcomes
4. Demonstrated ability in developing and implementing marketing and communication including traditional and social media avenues
5. Demonstrated ability in managing multiple projects including time, resources and budget management and report writing and submission
6. Ability to work autonomously on a day to day basis, whilst also working cooperately with others to achieve industry development goals

Qualifications

Tertiary qualifications in agriculture, communications or marketing and relevant experience in an industry development or extension role would be highly regarded.

Other features of the Position

- Salary dependant on experience and vehicle for work related travel will be provided. Other benefits will include appropriate superannuation, four weeks paid annual leave and 10 days sick and carers leave annually.
- The location of the role will be based at the Lockyer Valley Growers Office (within the DAF Research Station, Gatton)
- Attendance at meetings outside of normal work hours will be required.
- Some travel and over-night stays will be required.
- A three month probationary period will apply to the successful candidate
- Candidates will be subject to a criminal history check during the selection process. A “working with children” Blue Card will also be required within 12 weeks of accepting the position. Permanent residency for Australia or Australian Citizenship must be provided upon application.

For further information

Enquiries about the position should be directed to Sharron Windolf, Treasurer, Lockyer Valley Growers Inc on phone 0407 623 119 or email sharron@windolffarms.com.au

Application Process

To apply for the position it is recommended that you submit:

- A cover letter
- A statement describing how you meet each of the selection criteria (response must be no longer than two pages)
- A resumé, and

- Contact details of at least two referees.

This application should be emailed to admin@lockyervalleygrowers.com.au or posted to;

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc

PO Box 322 GATTON QLD 4343



**National Vegetable
Extension Network**

**Horticulture
Innovation
Australia**

This project has been funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the vegetable industry levy and funds from the Australian Government.

Appendix 2

Minutes from a Steering Committee meeting

Steering Committee – South East Queensland.

Attended by: Tim Carnell, Tony Gibb, Michael Sippel, Anthony Staatz, Kerry Hauser & Pat Salter.

Date :23/3/2017

Time: 1:30pm

Location: Cultural Centre Lockyer Valley.

The meeting opened with a general discussion of the regions and each representative spoke openly of the key concerns within each region. As a committee, we rounded table at number of issues that are currently effecting the businesses (growers & suppliers) within the regions. The below table is a collective contribution from each member with a proposed concern and an appropriate action to take place to build the rapport across the growing regions in south east Queensland.

Concern	Region	Proposed Solution	Accountability	Action
Engagement of the younger growers	Granite Belt Fassifern Valley Darling Downs Lockyer Valley	The development of a young grower's tour. 2 day trip collecting growers from all regions Day 1 may include the following - Coles / Woolworths DC followed by the air freighters or processing plant. Day 2 would be a trip to the markets with Vanessa Kennedy and a visit to the warehousing compound of Gibb Bros.	IDO – to investigate costs and seek funding from HIA.	IDO to cost and organise the itinerary of the event. A proposed outline and costings to be submitted to LVG committee. IDO – to investigate the proposed candidates for the tour with the assistance of the steering committee, supplier network (seed representatives)
Lack of correspondence (Horticulture Focus)	Granite Belt Fassifern Valley Darling Downs	The group deemed it to be reasonable to distribute the LVG newsletter broadly. A possible solution is to place an ad in the Border Post of distribution agents within the region. (ie Muir's, Lindsay Rural,	IDO – To look at supply chains to house the newsletter.	IDO to investigate cost for newspaper advertisement in Stanthorpe. (maybe sister paper to the Gatton Star). Seek approval for advertisement to be placed initially.

		Landmark and Elders)		Encourage the use of the Newsletter online. Travel and place editions in locations.
Lack of events in the different regions	Granite Belt Fassifern Valley	Local race day held in last week of October.	IDO – to speak to the chamber of commerce in Stanthorpe	IDO – review the associated cost for the event. gauge the level of support from the growers in these regions.
Lack of grower nights	Granite Belt Fassifern Valley	First meeting to be a met and greet of the IDO. Than push through to full grower BBQ's with presentations for suppliers.	IDO – gauge the level of support from the supplier network.	IDO to complete an assessment of the level of engagement from the growers within the region. Secondly – find a suitable venue to hold presentations. This is to run similar to the LVG BBQ evenings with speakers getting 15 minutes.
Level of uptake from the growers in the other regions, due to name of the INC.	Granite Belt Fassifern Valley	For the IDO to utilise the name of Southern Queensland whilst representing the southern regions.	IDO to be mindful of the choice of words whilst being in other regions – possible amendment to uniform to include NVEN logo.	The group has decided that we should trail the use of the LVG under the current banner within the regions. This will be monitored closely. It helps that growers are across multiple regions.

Lack of awareness of IDO	Granite Belt Fassifern	More time to be spent in the Stanthorpe region. Approx. 100 -200 veggie growers	IDO to sit and schedule time with Tim and to build a stronger and diverse database of growers in the region.	IDO – to work closely with the seed company's and complete more scheduled visits in the region. I am still to meet 2 growers in the fassifern valley. Schedule a visit to the Aratula pub on Friday afternoon.
Engagement of youth into horticulture in the regions	Fassifern Granite Belt	Identify DET meetings within the regions. Visit chamber of commerce. Look into institutes that provide horticulture as a course.	IDO	IDO to call and work closely with the Department of Education and Training network in the regions. Attend meetings and identify the needs. Report back to members of the steering committee.
Chemical registrations/restrictions National Approach.	All	Under the guidance of the SIP	IDO	IDO to continue to work with HIA to implement the required permits. This needs to be pushed with the powers at be.
Water	All	IDO to get up to speed on the current allocations and the future proposed	IDO – is not allowed to advocate in this role.	IDO – to investigate current and future proposed changes. Meeting with key growers and associated groups

				– must not advocate.
Electricity	ALL	To investigate the difference in the tariffs that will affect horticulture	IDO	IDO to review current tariffs and the future tariffs and provide that information to growers to make an informed decision.
Infrastructure	Granite Belt	Review of the current / proposed road network system. Focusing on the accessibility of the of B doubles on the network	IDO	IDO to engage with the RDIA manager to review and obtain an update of any proposed upgrades to the network in the Stanthorpe region.
Horticultural Award	ALL	Monitor and advise of proposed changes – protect award	IDO	IDO to gain an understanding of the award and the proposed changes to the awards. Decision with– Growcom and Hort Council.

The above table are the initial and primary concerns of the steering committee. In addition to these, the following points need further investigation and the information passed onto the members immediately.

*Biosecurity – responsibility of the department and the rights of the growers. This matter will be discussed in detail with DAF and Growcom.

* Alerts – once a week regarding key concerns – OH&S, Harps audits, free courses.

* The use of a calendar of events – I indicated that a calendar was available on the LVG website. This will be maintained weekly by the IDO.

Meeting Closed at 2:45pm

Appendix 3

Expo summary report



2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo

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Executive Summary

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc (LVG) was formed in December 2013 and has a membership of 38 fruit and vegetable producers representing approximately 80 per cent of the horticultural growing area in the Lockyer Valley. They hosted the National Horticultural and Innovation Expo on 27-28th July 2016 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Gatton Research Facility and the adjoining University of Queensland site.

Ten international seed companies showcased their latest varieties and breeding programs by planting more than 500 varieties of vegetables and herbs and more than 80 organisations and businesses involved in the vegetable industry exhibited at the expo.

More than 1500 growers, industry representatives and students attended the expo and 480 attended the industry dinner.

Objectives and Outcomes

The outcomes of the expo were:

1. To increase the profile of Lockyer Valley as a key agricultural and horticultural region within Queensland
2. Promote the latest innovative products, processes and technology used in horticultural industries
3. Showcase new seed varieties and breeding programs from ten international seed companies
4. Highlight the paddock to plate philosophy with a Brisbane chef profiling and cooking with local Lockyer valley horticultural produce
5. Provide a dynamic platform to encourage educational institutions to increase exposure and understanding of horticulture and the Lockyer Valley.

Overview

The National Horticultural and Innovation Expo was held on 27-28th July 2016 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Gatton Research Facility and the adjoining University of Queensland site.

More than 1500 growers, industry representatives and students attended the expo and 480 attended the industry dinner. Just over 500 attendees were from the local area, just under 800 were from other parts of Queensland and more than 200 school and university students attended.

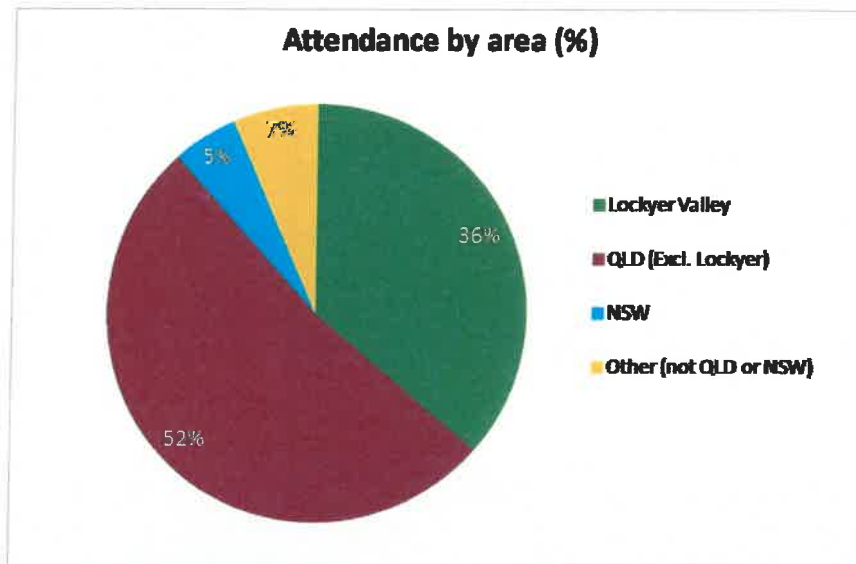


Figure 1: Summary of attendees location

Ten international seed companies showcased their latest varieties and breeding programs by planting more than 500 varieties of vegetables and herbs and more than 80 organisations and businesses involved in the vegetable industry exhibited at the expo.

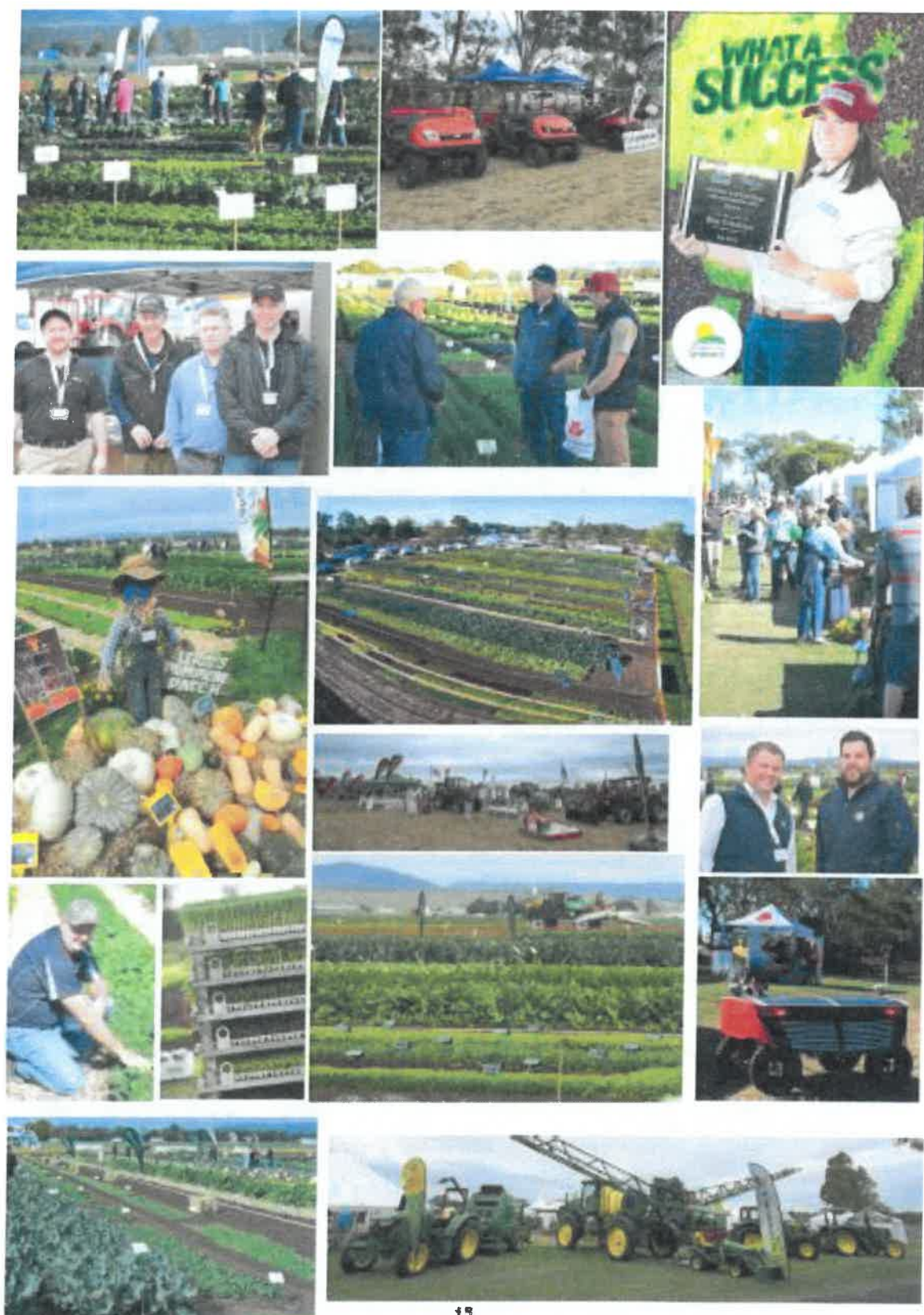


Figure 2: Representatives from ten international seed companies spent more than 20 weeks preparing, planting and conducting ongoing management of the seed trial plots for the expo.

2016 National
Horticultural
and Innovation
Expo



Photos courtesy of Mike Lamond from Fairfax Media and Queensland Drones © 2016



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More than 480 growers and industry representatives attended the "Farm to Fork" industry dinner which was a great occasion to network and showcase the variety of fresh produce grown in the region. Ashley Warmesley, Editor of Good Fruit and Vegetables Magazine (a Fairfax media publication), was the MC for the evening.



Outcome assessment

The 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo was the first of its kind held in Queensland for at least 16 years. It provided a great platform to showcase the Lockyer Valley which represents 12-14% of the Queensland agricultural economy and typically accounts for 25% of total horticultural production with more than 10,000ha under production (ABS.gov.au. Available at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS>).

More than 64% of attendees came from outside the local Lockyer Valley, which was therefore a great opportunity to showcase the region and also a great financial injection into the local economy from these visitors. Furthermore, 93% indicated they would return again if the Expo is held again in the future.

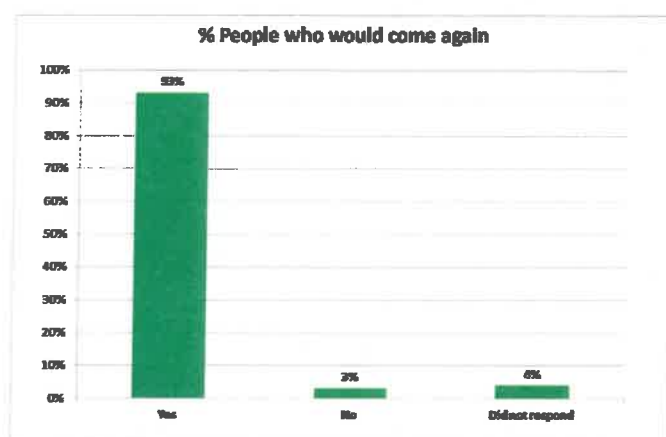
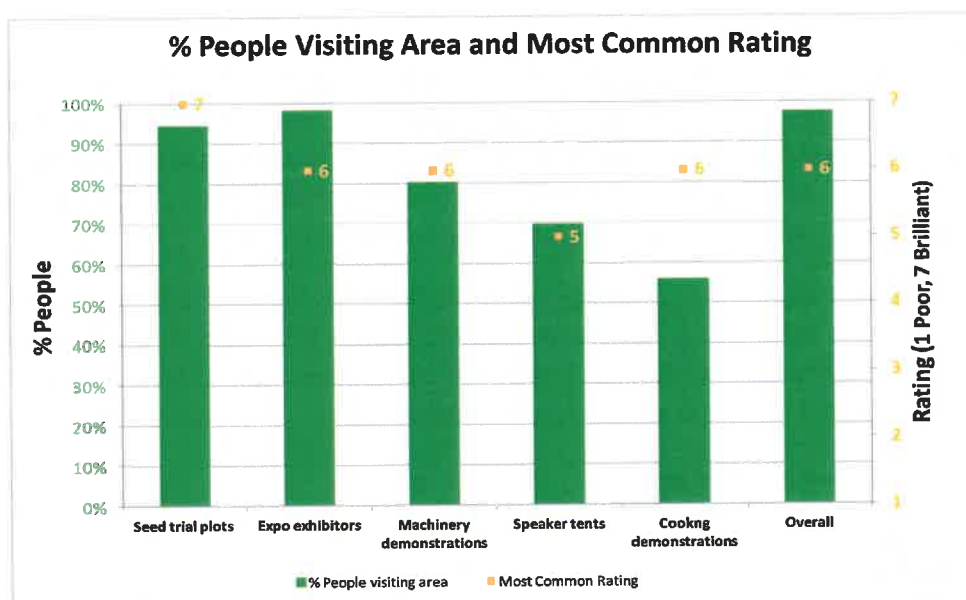


Figure 3: % of people that would come again

The ten international seed exhibitors showcased more than 500 varieties of vegetables and herbs. This was by far the drawcard for most attendees with 93% of attendees visiting this area and rating it "brilliant" in their feedback. A further 80 exhibitors showcased a variety of industry specific products targeted at the whole supply chain including:

- Precision agriculture technology – drone mapping, yield mapping, variable rate technology, GPS guided systems
- Product packaging, data-logging and tracking opportunities
- Agronomic and pest and disease management options and innovations including robotics and automation systems
- Seed, seedling and pre-planting technologies including retractable greenhouses
- Irrigation and environmental monitoring including new water use efficiency technologies
- Farm and staff management decision support tools and training programs



A key philosophy guiding the Expo and the Industry dinner was a “paddock to plate” idea showcasing the fresh produce available from the Lockyer Valley and the variety of methods for preparing, cooking and consuming.

Glen Barratt, Head Chef at “Wild Canary Botanical Bistro” located at Brookfield in Brisbane’s West, demonstrated how easy it was to cook and eat using local fresh produce from the Lockyer Valley. Glen demonstrated his love for everything fresh, local and colourful at the Lockyer Valley Growers *Love My Salad* tent which was brought to the expo by Rijk Zwaan Seeds.

Love My Salad has been developed to encourage free-flowing fun, creativity and enjoyment by adding more colour to your plate with fresh fruit and vegetables. The Lockyer Valley, supplies the majority of Australia’s vegetables during the winter months including broccoli, onions, carrots, beans and lettuce.

“Vegetables, salads and fruits are amazingly versatile foods and enjoyed sharing some awesome recipes and tips with people at the Expo. My main aim was to highlight the brilliant variety of fresh fruit and vegetables we have growing on our doorstep and how easy, fun and enjoyable these can be to eat” said Glen.

Another driver for the Lockyer Valley Growers was the engagement of local education institutions and highlighting the broad and dynamic opportunities available in horticulture. More than 200 school and university students attended the expo from a variety of institutions including:

- Calvary Christian College - Carbrook
- Faith Lutheran College – Plainlands
- Lockyer Valley District High School – Gatton
- Centenary High School – Toowoomba

- Dalby High School – Dalby
- Clifford Park Special School – Toowoomba
- University of Queensland – Gatton, St Lucia
- University of Southern Queensland - Toowoomba

The 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo received significant local, regional and national media exposure. The following summarises the media coverage:

- Five media releases were developed and distributed prior to the event to more than 200 media outlets (Refer to Appendices for copies)
- 44 media outlets picked up and published these releases including outlets in Bundaberg, Coffs Harbour, Toowoomba, Nyngan, Gladstone and Logan
- Win TV (Toowoomba) conducted advertisements leading up to the event and included coverage of the event during the nightly news program
- ABC local radio (Toowoomba) attended the event and broadcast interviews
- Regional coverage was received in the Queensland Country Life
- National coverage was received through significant exposure in Fairfax Media's "Good Fruit and Vegetables" which published two- 24 page pull-out special editions focussed on the Expo
- International media exposure was received through the "Fresh Plaza" weekly news update (international horticulture on-line outlet)
- Local 24 page pull out special edition Gatton Star produced during the week of the Expo.

Furthermore, the event was promoted through the distribution of our quarterly newsletter, Growcom newsletters and social media (Facebook) to generate additional interest.

Major sponsors and supporters



Lockyer Growers unite to host national expo

The Lockyer Valley Growers have recently appointed their first Project Manager and will host a large expo in July at Gatton.

The Lockyer Valley Growers was established in late 2013 as a means for the fruit and vegetable growers in the area to unite and work together. The group has hosted a number of successful events over the last two years and is well supported and sponsored by local businesses.

The appointment of their first Project Manager has been a major goal for the group since they started and is testament to the hard work of the voluntary group and the enormous support the group receives from more than 20 corporate sponsors.

President of the Lockyer Valley Growers, Anthony Staatz said "the appointment of Leonie Brassey as our first Project Manager has been a wonderful achievement for the group and the group really appreciates the support of its members and sponsors which have enabled this to happen".

A key activity for Leonie will be to coordinate the 2016 National Horticulture and Innovation Expo. This event, being run over two days, will showcase the latest seed varieties from nine seed companies, demonstrate machinery innovation and technology, provide cooking demonstrations using local produce and much more.

Newly appointed Project Manager, Leonie Brassey said "the expo will be held at the Gatton Research Facility on the Warrego Highway. Growers and industry representatives are welcome to attend on Wednesday 27th July and school groups, students, growers as well as the public are welcome to attend on Thursday 28th July. It is shaping up to be a great event with something for the whole family" she said.

The growers in the Lockyer Valley produce more than 120 different horticultural crops throughout the whole year including lettuce, broccoli, onions, carrots, beans and potatoes.

To keep updated about the expo and other activities run by the Lockyer Valley Growers, like them on Facebook.

PHOTO CAPTION: Anthony Staatz, President of Lockyer Valley Growers and vegetable producer at Gatton.

-----ENDS-----

International seed companies plant the future together at Gatton

Ten international horticultural seed companies have come together to start planting as part of the 2016 National Horticulture and Innovation Expo being hosted by the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. The Expo is being held on 27-28th July at Gatton and will showcase new vegetable varieties and innovations in seed technology and breeding. This is the first time a large horticulture expo has been held in the Lockyer valley for more than 15 years.

"It was great atmosphere working together to start planting for the expo" said Michael Sippel from Terranova Seeds. "The Lockyer Valley produces 120 different horticultural crops and to have ten international seed companies showcasing their varieties will be a really great sight. Terranova Seeds have been strong supporters of the Lockyer Valley Growers since it started and our company is very excited about the expo".

The Expo will be held at the Gatton Research Facility on the Warrego Highway and will also provide machinery and innovative technology demonstrations, cooking demonstrations and other industry specific exhibits.

Michael said "Terranova Seeds look forward to showcasing their leafy greens and vegetable varieties suitable for winter production in the Lockyer Valley".

The other seed companies that will be exhibiting at the Expo are Seminis, Bejo Seeds, Bayer, Lefroy Valley, Fairbanks Seeds, HM Clause, South Pacific Seeds, Westranell and Rijk Zwaan.

To keep updated about the expo and other activities run by the Lockyer Valley Growers check out their new website at www.lockyervalleygrowers.com.au or like them on Facebook.

PHOTO CAPTION: Michael Sippel (left) from Terranova Seeds and David Jensen (right) student from the University of Queensland Gatton plant leafy green vegetables.

-----ENDS-----

Seeing is believing

Future farming technology on show at Gatton

Precision agriculture techniques are a game-changer for farmers and started with global position systems (GPS) more than 20 years ago to now days include electronic crop yield monitoring, automatic machine guidance, unmanned aerial vehicle (drones), precision irrigation and variable rate applications for seeding, fertilising and crop protection.

The aim of all this technology is to help boost crop yields, reduce fertiliser costs, limit chemical applications and costs, improve irrigation techniques and help create better farm management decisions.

Ploughs, planters, spreaders, sprayers and other machinery add-ons are becoming “intelligent” equipment enabled by the use of sophisticated sensors, software and wireless connectivity.

Vanderfield will be performing several practical demonstrations of some of this technology at the National Horticulture and Innovation Expo being held on 27-28 July at Gatton.

“We look forward to showcasing the John Deere iTechPRO semi-autonomous technology that allows hands free headland turns by automating functions such as SCV, PTO, linkage, speed and the end of row turn” said Stephen Hegarty, Precision Farming Manager for Vanderfield.

“Automated GPS rate control of crop inputs will be demonstrated which allows accurate application of liquid and solid products, as well as record keeping through electronic application reports”, Stephen added.

Vanderfield’s precision agriculture specialists from VNET Precision Farming will also be conducting presentations including data from the Horticultural Precision Agriculture projects they are involved in which includes yield mapping of machine harvested vegetables.

The National Horticulture and Innovation Expo is being put on by the Lockyer Valley Growers. Other innovative technology being demonstrated during the Expo includes drones and mapping by Queensland Drone Photography, Trimble on-farm GPS simulators by Ag Requirements, in-crop robotics and other automation advances to help both on-farm and in the packing shed.

To keep updated about the expo and other activities run by the Lockyer Valley Growers check out their new website at www.lockyervalleygrowers.com.au or like them on Facebook.

Photo: Greenstar Rate Controller applying a prescription amount of fertiliser to different spatial management zones across the field

-----ENDS-----

Brisbane's Backyard creates fresh food fun

A popular Brisbane Chef looks forward to showcasing "Australia's Salad Bowl" as he demonstrates how easy it is to cook and eat using local fresh produce from the Lockyer Valley.

Glen Barratt, head Chef at Brookfield's "Wild Canary Botanical Bistro", will be one of the highlights at the National Horticulture and Innovation Expo being held on 27-28th July at Gatton.

Glen will demonstrate his love for everything fresh, local and colourful at the Lockyer Valley Growers *Love My Salad* tent which is brought to the expo by Rijk Zwaan Seeds.

Love My Salad has been developed to encourage free-flowing fun, creativity and enjoyment by adding more colour to your plate with fresh fruit and vegetables. Glen said that "he thoroughly enjoys the *Love My Salad* experience and particularly using fresh produce that has been grown locally".

The Lockyer Valley, located just west of Brisbane, supplies the majority of Australia's vegetables during the winter months including broccoli, onions, carrots, beans and lettuce.

"Vegetables, salads and fruits are amazingly versatile foods and I look forward to sharing some awesome recipes and tips with people at the Expo. My main aim is to highlight the brilliant variety of fresh fruit and vegetables we have growing on our doorstep and how easy, fun and enjoyable these can be to eat" said Glen.

The National Horticulture and Innovation Expo will showcase new vegetable varieties, innovations in seed technology and breeding, whilst a further 50 exhibitors will showcase new innovations and developments in machinery including tractors, drones, GPS and precision farming.

To keep updated about the expo like the Lockyer Valley Growers on Facebook.

PHOTO CAPTION: Glen Barratt

-----ENDS-----

Celebrity Chef Salad Demonstration 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo

Love My Salad and Lockyer Valley Growers extend an invitation to a workshop and salad demonstration that puts vegetables at the heart of your everyday.

Led by local celebrity chef and Love My Salad Ambassador Glen Barratt during the 2016 National Horticultural and Innovation Expo, the workshop and demonstration will be at the Lockyer Valley Growers Love My Salad tent, running at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm on Thursday 28th July.

As Chef of Brookfield's Wild Canary, Glen has a strong focus on local and seasonal produce and has created a trio of dishes that showcase the best of what the Lockyer has to offer.

President of the Lockyer Valley Growers, Anthony Staatz, said, 'Glen's focus on regional and seasonal fits really well with our intention of bringing the public closer to the farmers that are actually growing their food. What better way to do this than with a local chef using local produce? We want to show that make eating vegetables can be fun and enjoyable!'

Featuring the theme 'sharing the fun, joy and versatility of vegetables', activities are planned for children including finding salad ingredients in a maze, guessing competitions, and enjoying a salad. 'Visitors can learn essential skills of salad making as well as tips on produce selection and listen to interesting discussions with growers whilst experiencing a fresh Lockyer Valley salad,' said Anthony. Visit us and share your experience on social media using #lovemysalad.

The Lockyer Valley Growers Love My Salad tent is sponsored by family owned specialist vegetable breeder Rijk Zwaan, who is also participating in the expo.

Entry to the Expo is \$20 for adults; free for students. Once in the Expo, entry to the Lockyer Valley Growers Love My Salad Tent is free and everyone is welcome.

For more information visit www.lockyervalleygrowers.com.au.

Appendix 4

List of VegNET Southern Queensland capacity building events

Year	Month	event	location	issues addressed	number of people in attendance	other details
2016	May	Seminar	Gatton	Energy management options, introduction from the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Mayor and new chemical R&D options	37	
				Precision agriculture and new machinery technologies and advances. Environmental and water monitoring and management technology. Data logging and tracking for fresh produce and innovative packaging solutions for export of vegetables	25	refer to meeting summary and evaluation
	October	Seminar	Stanthorpe	Precision agriculture and new machinery technologies and advances. Environmental and water monitoring and management technology. Data logging and tracking for fresh produce and innovative packaging solutions for export of vegetables	15	refer to meeting summary and evaluation
			Toowoomba	Precision agriculture and new machinery technologies and advances. Environmental and water monitoring and management technology. Data logging and tracking for fresh produce and innovative packaging solutions for export of vegetables	30	refer to meeting summary and evaluation
			Gatton	Precision agriculture and new machinery technologies and advances. Environmental and water monitoring and management technology. Data logging and tracking for fresh produce and innovative packaging solutions for export of vegetables. Hort Innovation/ Ausveg scholarship scheme (Rimfire Resources)		
2017	February	Seminar	Gatton	IDO Introduction, new export project to South Korea, managing pest and diseases, on farm biosecurity, residue management, CGMMV, new developments in seed and varieties	26	
	April	LOTE workshop	Gatton	funding and technical assistance following significant flooding	35	
	May	flood recovery workshop	Chambers Flat		45	
	May	Seminar	Gatton		47	
	May	Working lunch	Gatton	simplifying workcover	12	

	June	Seminar	Gatton	WH&S essentials	20	
	July	flood recovery workshop	Chambers Flat	funding, social and technical assistance following major flooding	45	
	July	Young Growers Tour	Brisbane	Brisbane Markets, Woolworths Distribution Centre, Orora Packaging, Port of Brisbane, Primo Fresh and Zone Fresh		
	July	Seminar	Stanthorpe	pre-season meeting, area wide management, bacterial spot on capsicums, seasonal weather forecast, exporting vegetables to South Korea	25	
	August	Seminar	Gatton	update from Young Growers trip, exporting vegetables to South Korea, new fertilizer options (Landmark)	47	
	August	Seminar	Stanthorpe	WH&S essentials	20	
	December	Working lunch	Gatton	Immigration and Border Protection requirements	12	
2018	February	Seminar	Gatton	Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network (migrant skills opportunities), grants and funding available for vegetable producers, group 28 chemistry challenges managing diamondback moth, lockyer avley water update and Queensland Farmers Federation energy audits	27	Refer to meeting summary and evaluation
	March	workshop	Gatton	managing diamondback moth - establishing a strategy to address chemical resistance	45	
	March	young growers field tour	stanthorpe	irrigation management, packing and grading technology, biosecurity, hail and weather management (cannons and netting)	12	refer to summary of activities and evaluation
	March	Breakfast seminar	Boonah	Hort 360 climate risk, farm financial recovery and support, soil management technologies and tools	30	
	May	Seminar	stanthorpe	energy efficiency and management, seasonal workers program and exporting vegetables to South Korea	35	refer to summary of activities and evaluation

	May	Seminar	Gatton	Lockyer Valley water update, discussion regarding the establishment of a Lockyer Valley Water Collaborative partnership, exporting vegetables to South Korea	42	refer to summary of activities and evaluation
	June	Seminar and field trip	Gatton	Ausveg Reverse Trade Mission - seminar on Southern Queensland vegetable production and export opportunities	50	
	June	Field day	Gatton	RIPPA and national precision agriculture project update	16	refer to summary of activities and evaluation
	August	seminar	Gatton	Seasonal workers program, iceless packaging options for vegetable exports, national precision agriculture project update, Hort Innovation improved vegetable seed quality	52	refer to summary of activities and evaluation
	September	Shed talk	stanthorpe	Chemical handling and management options, update on national IPM project, biosecurity and what the strawberry tampering crisis may mean for vegetable producers	17	
	September	LOTE workshop	Gatton	Managing powdery mildew in cucumbers, onfarm biosecurity, new cucumber varieties and management	45	event photos
	September	Working lunch	Gatton	management of cyber security	8	
	November	Seminar	Gatton	Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network, Hort Innovation vegetable seed project (UQ), update from the Lockyer Valley Water Collaborative	45	
2019	February	Seminar	Gatton	sustainable packaging products, business succession planning, Boomaroo nursery expansion and technology, soil wealth (cover crops) and red back spider research	22	
	february	strategy meeting	Gatton	Development of a Diamondback Moth Resistance strategy	13	
	March	strategy meeting	Gatton	Development of a Diamondback Moth Resistance strategy	10	

	April	strategy launch	Gatton	launch of Diamondback Moth Resistance strategy	45	
				Hort Innovation area wide management of vegetables, IPM in vegetables and managing climate and long term weather forecasts		
	May	Seminar	Stanthorpe		27	
				Ausveg trade missions (Sharron Windolf and Scott Logan), update from Lockyer Valley Regional Council regarding inland Rail proposal and water for the Lockyer, Landmark discussion on fertiliser options	53	
	May	Seminar	Gatton			
total			35		1035	

Appendix 5

Media
examples

Vegetable industry unites to address major pest

More than 40 vegetable growers and industry representatives came together to launch a strategy to address chemical resistance to Diamondback moth in Brassica crops. Brassica's include broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts and cabbages and are grown all year round in southern Queensland.

Diamondback moth (DBM) is the most destructive insect pest of brassica crops throughout the world and a single chemical solution is not possible. The efficacy of existing chemicals to address the pest has changed and the problem of resistance across the region, and worldwide, has become more noticeable over the last few years.

"A committee was formed which involved most major vegetable chemical companies, a number of farmers and re-sellers to work collaboratively to develop a plan " said Michael Sippel, President of the Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. "The resistance management plan for DBM uses the best available scientific information to help address this industry-wide challenge. The plan is a 'work in progress' and will be reviewed and updated regularly".

The plan identifies appropriate times or "windows" for the application of specific chemicals. Each registered insecticide identified in the plan has a different level of impact depending on the lifecycle of the Diamondback moth. The plan works on the principle of only using particular insecticides for a certain period of time, before switching to those of a different mode of action. This process limits the exposure of the pest to specific products and therefore minimises the pest's ability to build up resistance.

Micheal Sippel added "selective use of insecticides are just one component of a whole farm approach to managing Diamondback moth which includes crop monitoring, conservation of beneficial insects, careful spray application and good farm hygiene".

A copy of the Diamondback Moth Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy can be obtained from the Lockyer Valley Growers website at www.lockyervalleygrowers.com.au

Photo 1: Diamondback moth resistance strategy committee members: Zara Hall (DAF), Chris Rutland (Landmark) and Michael Sippel (President, Lockyer Valley Growers).

Photo 2: Diamondback moth – photo courtesy of Johnelle Rogan

ENDS

About Lockyer Valley Growers Inc

The Lockyer Valley Growers Inc (LVG) was formally established in December 2013. They aim to support initiatives and projects which benefit the growers of the Lockyer and provide a united voice for horticulture in the region. Further, the group aims to create opportunities for social interactions, networking and promote education and training programs. The group is open to all fruit and vegetable producers growing produce in the Lockyer Valley and is managed on a day-to-day basis by a 100% voluntary committee.

For further information

Michael Sippel, President, Lockyer Valley Growers can be contacted on ph: 0418 479 062.

Enquiries about the group should be directed to Pat Salter, Industry Development Officer, Lockyer Valley Growers Inc on phone 0456 956 340 or email ido@lockyervalleygrowers.com.au



Q FRESH FOOD Sweet potatoes criss with Lockyer Valley Growers Group president Michael Sippel. The region is gearing up for international exports. Picture: Ali Kuchel

BUSINESS

How Lockyer veggies could feed two nations

by EMMMA CLARKE



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O Lockyer Valley Grains Association president Michael Soper. Picture: Al Vothel

NEWS

Break-even season hits farmers back pockets

by ALI KUCHIEL

26th Dec 2018 4:45 PM



Mobile Windscreen Replacement





Home Just In News Sports Classifieds



OHARD TIMES: Anthony Siano says recent weather could potentially make his lettuce crop unsalvageable. Picture: Photo Tom Thwaites/aphan / Gannon

WEATHER

Autumn heat not very welcome in the valley

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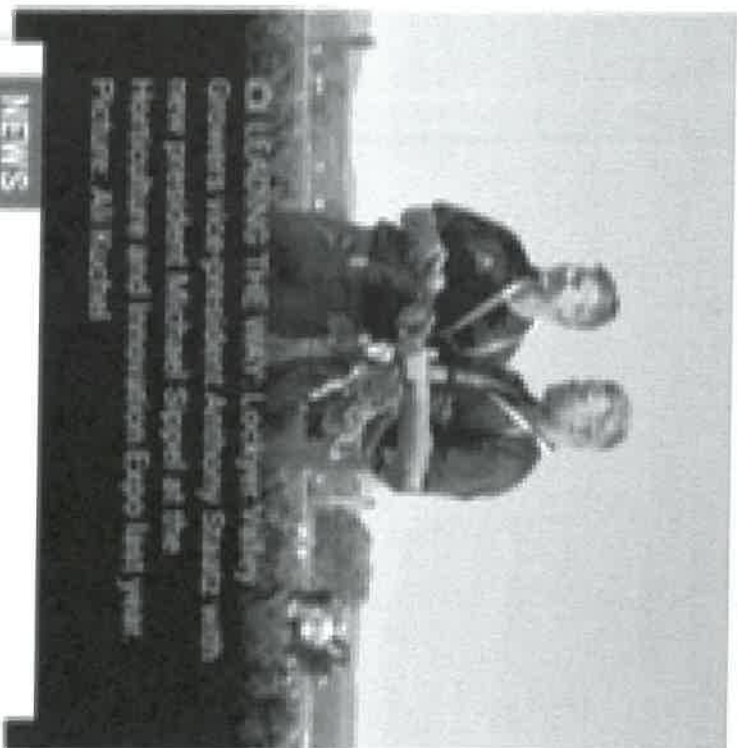
● **READY TO GO:** Lockyer Valley Growth president Michael Siggel, Quanni project manager and agriculture workforce officer for Southern Queensland Regional Development CEO Pam Hanson, FarmReady founder and director James Dipple and Lockyer Valley Alliance founding chair Vase Jacksett at the launch of the FarmReady trial. Picture: Lockyer Valley.



Association president Michael Engel

11-25-01

Veg prices tipped to stay put after floods



CI LEADING THE WAY Looking Valley Growers vice-president Anthony Swartz with new president Michael Sippel at the Horticulture and Innovation Expo last year. Picture: All Rights Reserved

NEWS

Sippel takes the lead for growers association

Business

Save 15% when you book before USA 10. Cancelled matches with us before 30 June





Home > Grower Profiles > Justin Vanstone: Hard work pays off for fourth generation vegetable growers

18 JAN 2016



Justin Vanstone: Hard work pays off for fourth

Appendix 6

End of project
VegNET survey
results

Q1 Contact information

Answered: 18 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name (optional)	72.22%	13
Business name (optional)	66.67%	12
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
Region	100.00%	18
Postcode	100.00%	18
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	0.00%	0
Mobile number (optional)	61.11%	11

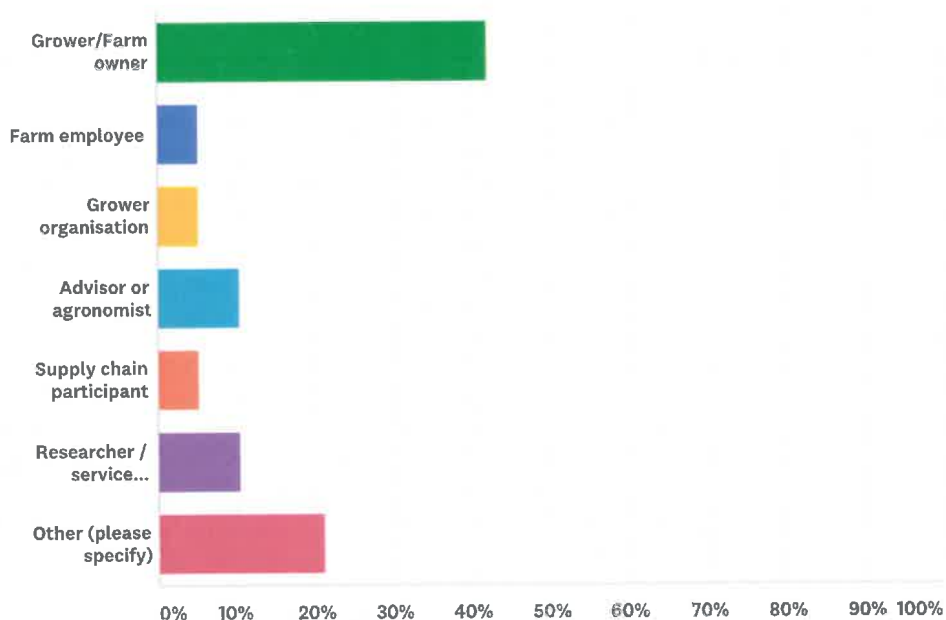
#	NAME (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Peter Hockings	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	Rachel Mackenzie	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	robert hinrichsen	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
4	Tony Gietzel	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
5	Gregory Teske	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
6	Roslyn Pennings	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
7	Clem Hodgman	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
8	keyestine	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
9	Justin Vanstone	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
10	Cherie Gambley	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
11	Tammy Litzow	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
12	Carl Hodgson	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
13	Michael Sippel	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
#	BUSINESS NAME (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	Growcom	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	Growcom	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Kalfresh	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
4	Seminis Vegetable Seeds	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
5	Elders	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
6	Barden Produce	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
7	Barden Produce	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
8	Campsey Ash Farms	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
9	Vanstone Produce	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
10	Dept Agriculture and Fisheries	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
11	Black Crow Organics	12/4/2018 11:48 AM

12	Rootz Qld	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
#	ADDRESS	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	ADDRESS 2	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	CITY/TOWN	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	REGION	DATE
1	QLD	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	QLD	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Lockyer Valley	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	QLD	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Southern Qld	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Lockyer Valley	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	Lockyer Valley	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	Lockyer Valley	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	Lockyer Valley	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	Lockyer Valley	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	Lockyer Valley	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	Lockyer Valley	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	QLD	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	Tenthill	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	Qld	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	Lockyer Valley	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
17	Lockyer Valley	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
18	Lockyer valley	12/4/2018 7:30 AM
#	POSTCODE	DATE
1	4670	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	4105	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	4343	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	4309	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	4350	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	4343	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	4343	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	4343	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	4343	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	4342	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	4342	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	4343	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	4378	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	4343	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	4343	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	4343	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
17	4343	12/4/2018 7:41 AM

18	4343	12/4/2018 7:30 AM
#	COUNTRY	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	EMAIL ADDRESS	DATE
	There are no responses.	
#	MOBILE NUMBER (OPTIONAL)	DATE
1	0427118953	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	0408796199	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	+61412700570	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
4	0417915901	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
5	0438127401	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
6	0419 233 887	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
7	0434887287	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
8	0423200211	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
9	0419189470	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
10	0400886374	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
11	0418479062	12/4/2018 8:11 AM

Q2 Which group best describes your role at work?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Grower/Farm owner	42.11%	8
Farm employee	5.26%	1
Grower organisation	5.26%	1
Advisor or agronomist	10.53%	2
Supply chain participant	5.26%	1
Researcher / service provider	10.53%	2
Other (please specify)	21.05%	4
TOTAL		19

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Export Facilitator	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	Vegetable Seed Sales Representative	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
3	Administration	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
4	Seed company product development officer	12/4/2018 8:50 PM

Q3 If you are a grower or farm employee, indicate the crops you grow and the approximate total growing area:

Answered: 13 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Crops grown:	100.00%	13
Growing area (ha)	30.77%	4
OR growing area (acres)	61.54%	8

#	CROPS GROWN:	DATE
1	Vegetables	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
2	carrots onions beans pumpkin	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
3	NA	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
4	Asian Veg, Herbs, Pumpkin, broccoli	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
5	Herbs, Brassica, Asian Vege	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
6	broccolini, shallots	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
7	carrots, beetroot, cabbage, cauliflower,pumpkin	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
8	Brassica's, leafy veg and onions (spring onions)	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
9	Lettuce, Tomatoes, Capsicums, Pumpkins, Melons, Cauliflower, Onions	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
10	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
11	potatoes, pumpkin,corn, onions, broccoli, celery, cauliflower, cabbage, garlic	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
12	Baby Leaf Salad	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
13	Iceberg Lettuce, Wombok, Eschallots, Cos Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
#	GROWING AREA (HA)	DATE
1	Don't want to disclose	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
2	200	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
3	350	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
4	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
#	OR GROWING AREA (ACRES)	DATE
1	250	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
2	250	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
3	180	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
4	600	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
5	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
6	400 acres	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
7	150	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
8	950	12/4/2018 7:41 AM

Q4 What are the top 3 issues limiting your business?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1)	100.00%	19
2)	100.00%	19
3)	94.74%	18

#	1)	DATE
1	Growers' time resources	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	n/a	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Water	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	cost of labour	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Water limitations	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Water	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	Water	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	Water	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	Water allocations	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	mechanisation	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	Labour	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	Distribution network	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	vegetable prices	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	Water Availability	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	Project peeps running there own events and not coordinating activities with LVG	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
17	Water Availability	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
18	Industry Oversupply	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
19	Labour	12/4/2018 7:30 AM
#	2)	DATE
1	Stakeholder 'noise'	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	n/a	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Labour	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	market value of produce	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Market size limitations	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Wages	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	Reliabable workforce	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	Reliable Workforce	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	Outdated/broken metres on bore holes	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	labour cost	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	Water	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	Water	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM

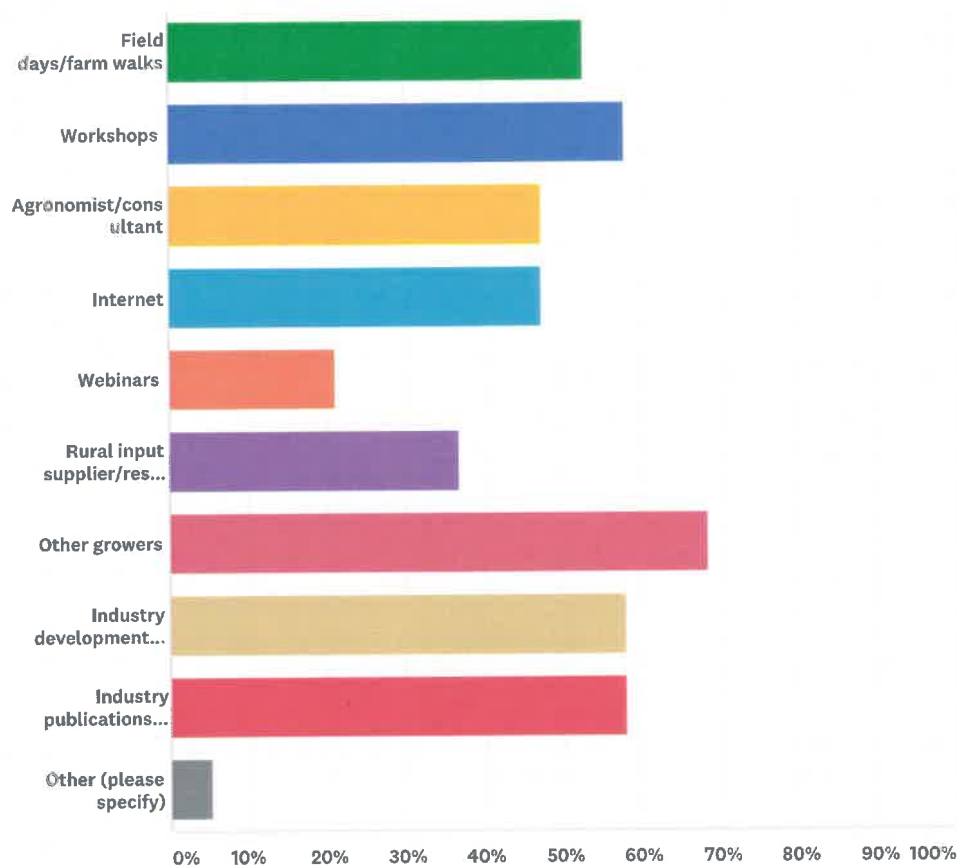
End of project VegNET survey - Southern Queensland

SurveyMonkey

14	water	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	Land Availability	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	Project people not being able to distill key project details to a 15min presentation and present info into a farmer friendly manner	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
17	Climate Variability	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
18	Labour Quality	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
19	Loyalty of farmers	12/4/2018 7:30 AM
#	3)	DATE
1	Funding resources	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	n/a	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Lack of access to internet services	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	risks	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Disease pressure	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Time	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	Consumer Perception of fresh vegetable worth	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	Sustainable Farming (returns for produce)	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	No water in creek and dam	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	weather	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	Financing	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	Limited personnel	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	0	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	good employees	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	Logistics	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	The number of growers is diminishing but farms are bigger and more productive - industry and project staff need to work more collaborative to ensure growers time away from farm is used effectively	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
17	Market access	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
18	Increasing Costs	12/4/2018 7:41 AM

Q5 From where do you get your information about production and farm management issues?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

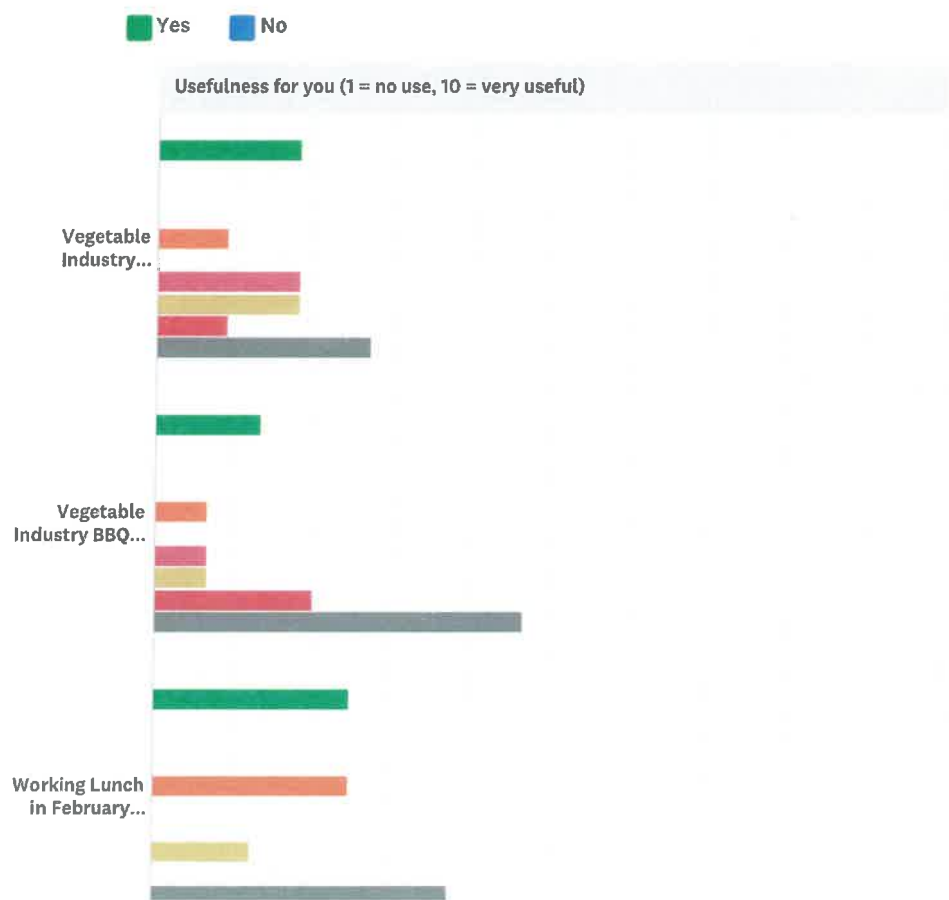
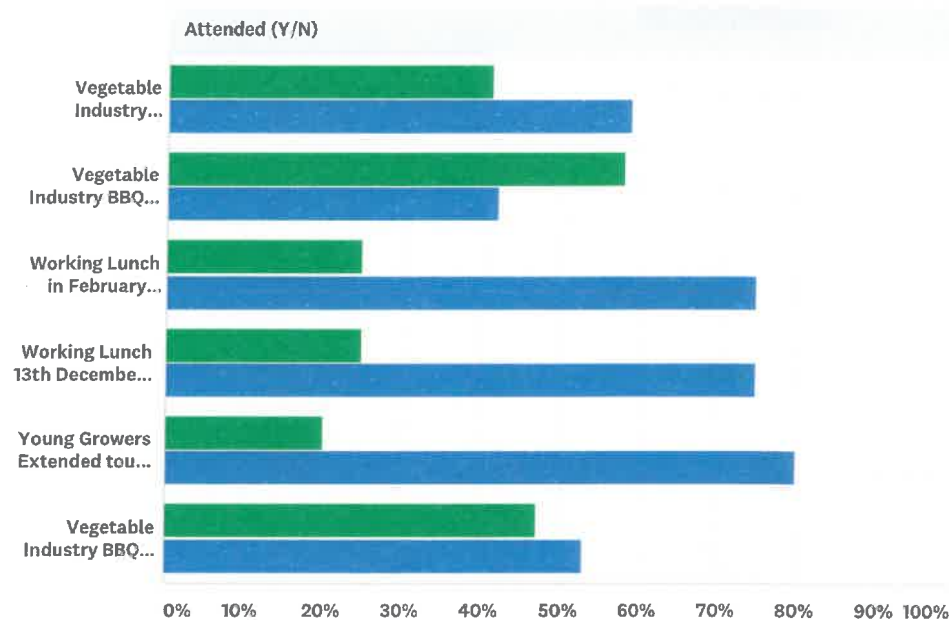


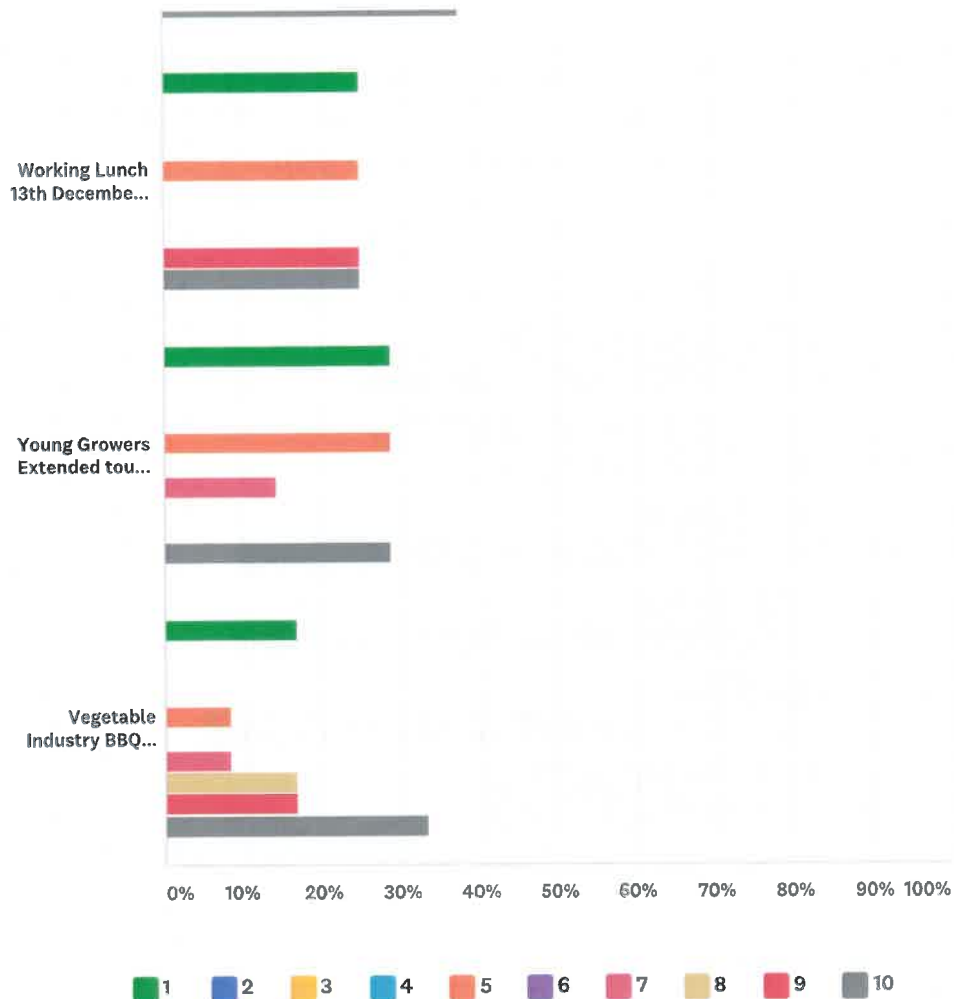
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Field days/farm walks		52.63%	10
Workshops		57.89%	11
Agronomist/consultant		47.37%	9
Internet		47.37%	9
Webinars		21.05%	4
Rural input supplier/reseller (e.g. Elders, Muirs, Landmark)		36.84%	7
Other growers		68.42%	13
Industry development officer		57.89%	11
Industry publications and newsletters (e.g. Vegetables Australia)		57.89%	11
Other (please specify)		5.26%	1
Total Respondents: 19			

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	published research and other research providers	12/4/2018 4:41 PM

Q6 Over the last 3 years, VegNET has run several activities in your region. Please indicate which activities you participated in and how useful they were to you.

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0





Attended (Y/N)

	YES	NO	TOTAL
Vegetable Industry Seminar Evaluation Gatton 5/09/2017	41.18% 7	58.82% 10	17
Vegetable Industry BBQ workshop in Gatton 24th August 2017 Topics included Tomato Potato Psyllid , Diamond Back Moth and the Young growers tour	57.89% 11	42.11% 8	19
Working Lunch in February 2017 – Presentation from Workplace Health & Safety	25.00% 4	75.00% 12	16
Working Lunch 13th December 2017 – Presentation from Workcover.	25.00% 4	75.00% 12	16
Young Growers Extended tour – 1st March 2018 – Field trip to Stanthorpe.	20.00% 3	80.00% 12	15
Vegetable Industry BBQ workshop in Gatton 16th May 2018. KAFTA and Bugs for Bugs.	47.06% 8	52.94% 9	17

Usefulness for you (1 = no use, 10 = very useful)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
Vegetable Industry Seminar Evaluation Gatton 5/09/2017	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	18.18% 2	18.18% 2	9.09% 1	27.27% 3	11

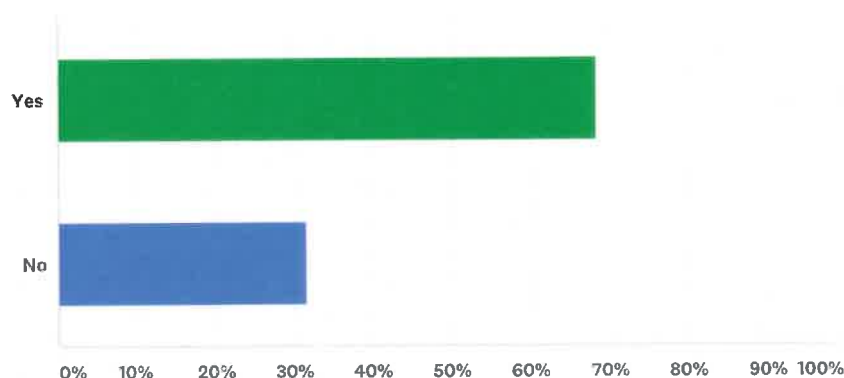
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SurveyMonkey

Vegetable Industry BBQ workshop in Gatton 24th August 2017Topics included Tomato Potato Psyllid , Diamond Back Moth and the Young growers tour	13.33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	0.00%	6.67%	6.67%	20.00%	46.67%	15
	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	7	
Working Lunch in February 2017 – Presentation from Workplace Health & Safety	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	37.50%	8
	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	
Working Lunch 13th December 2017 – Presentation from Workcover.	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	8
	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	
Young Growers Extended tour – 1st March 2018 – Field trip to Stanthorpe.	28.57%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	7
	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	
Vegetable Industry BBQ workshop in Gatton 16th May 2018, KAFTA and Bugs for Bugs.	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	16.67%	33.33%	12
	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	4	

Q7 As a result of the above VegNET activities, have you made any changes to your work practices (or in the advice you provide) or adopted any new technologies in the last 3 years?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

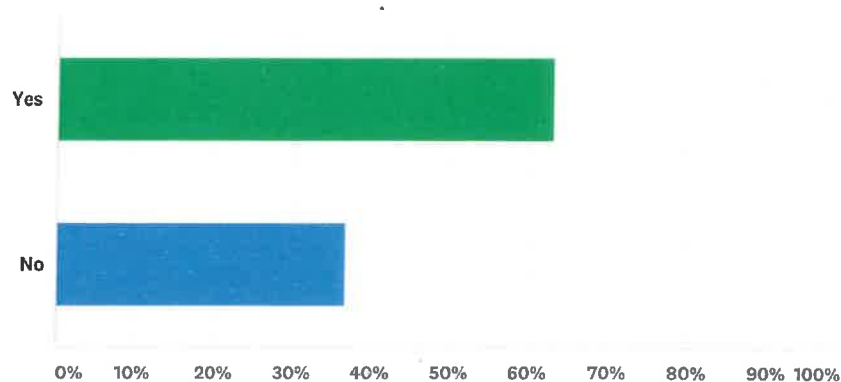


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	68.42%	13
No	31.58%	6
TOTAL		19

#	IF SO, WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU MADE?	DATE
1	A new role but awareness of such events and outcomes has meant future attempts will be made to attend wherever possible.	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	N/A	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	By increased learning and interaction with other Growers have changed a few of our business practices	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	Trying to get growers more interested in using IPM	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
5	More emphasis on IPM	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
6	I have only been involved with the vegnet activities for the past 12 months, as I am not a grower some of the information is not suitable for me personally. I enjoy learning the information and often share it with colleagues and others I speak to in the industry.	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
7	I have shared information with my employees and growing partners throughout the valley	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
8	Diamond back moth, work place health and safety issues	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
9	Lockyer Valley diamond back moth strategy	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
10	VegNet has been very helpful in distributing outcomes from research projects and organising on-farm surveys in many regions, nationally	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
11	Continued market development projects incl export	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
12	Far better understanding of chemical rotation and adopting and helping educate growers on using beneficial insects in their crops. KAFTA project was hugely successful for local leafy veg growers	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
13	Better WHS Policy development Exploring Exports More collaboration with growing network	12/4/2018 7:41 AM

Q8 As a result of VegNET activities, are you planning further changes to your work practices (or in the advice you provide)?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	63.16%	12
No	36.84%	7
TOTAL		19

#	IF SO, PLEASE LIST THESE BELOW:	DATE
1	A new role but awareness of such events and outcomes has meant future attempts will be made to attend wherever possible.	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	N/A	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	because legislation is always changing your business has to change	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
4	Depending on the workshops activities undertaken there is the potential for further changes	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
5	Look at beneficial insects.	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
6	With new information evolving at each meeting we will definitely incorporate learnings.	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
7	I have several ideas in the pipeline that are still in the planning stage.	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
8	guidance on submission for water allocations	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
9	Hoping to continue to distribute information to industry through VegNet	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
10	Continue to utilise LVG to share info with growers through newsletter, weekly feed and seminars	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
11	Technology uptake Further use of R&D completed by Hort Innovation	12/4/2018 7:41 AM

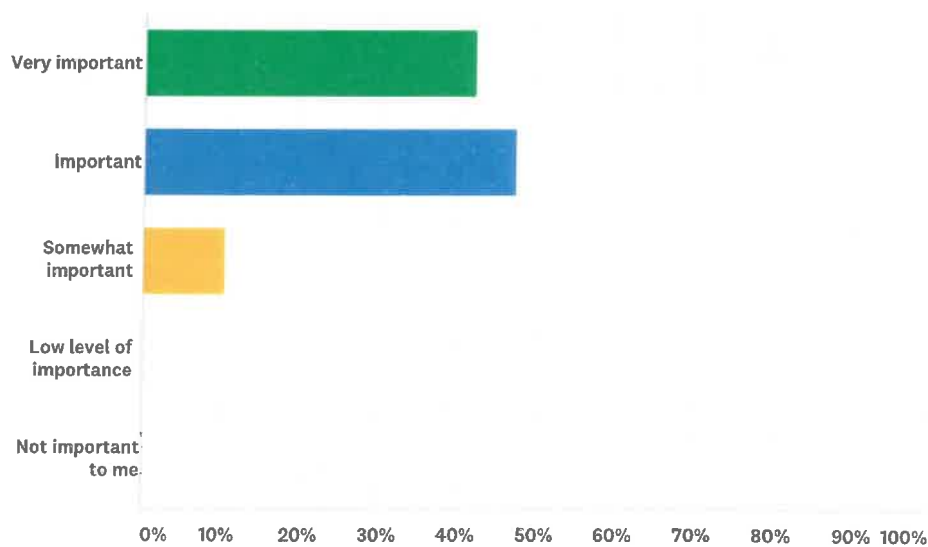
Q9 What further information or assistance from VegNET would help you in making changes to your business?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Connection with Growers that develop new interests in exporting and/or target markets	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	N/A	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Just keeping up with what is current out there and results of levy fund invested projects.	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	Similar to what it is doing	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Water use efficiencies Labour reduction/automation	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Continue to provide updates on Biological controls.	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	I don't have any specific suggestions at this time.	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	nothing specific at this time	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	more information on water allocations and government representation and help or advice in dealing with these matters	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	nil	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	-	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	a	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	Continued support for the research projects	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	ALL GROWERS MUST RECEIVE INFORMATION NOT JUST THE FAVOURITE FARMERS (eg forklift licences organised by IDO for a select few)	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	unsure	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	Continue being part of state network (Sven) and national network	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
17	The growers here locally need to be kept up to date with all red tape issues affecting their businesses. Compliance has become a major issue for local growers and the IDO role has been hugely supportive in getting qualified people to talk to growers	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
18	More R&D Extension Collective bargaining power for non-competitive costs (e.g. power, audit costs, etc.)	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
19	Na	12/4/2018 7:30 AM

Q10 How important is VegNET in keeping you informed about the latest developments in vegetable R&D?

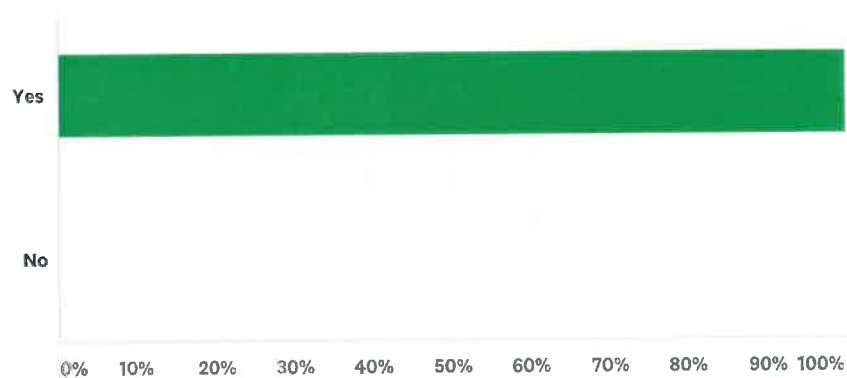
Answered: 19 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very important	42.11%	8
Important	47.37%	9
Somewhat important	10.53%	2
Low level of importance	0.00%	0
Not important to me	0.00%	0
TOTAL		19

Q11 Do you see value in the VegNET project continuing beyond 2019?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

**ANSWER CHOICES****RESPONSES**

Yes

100.00%

19

No

0.00%

0

TOTAL

19

Q12 If YES, do you have any suggestions for improvements? If NO, why not?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Longer funding commitment and sufficient to enable for a full-time position - otherwise only scratching the surface of viable outcomes through this role.	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	More engagement with best practice extension methodology for the program as a whole	12/17/2018 1:39 PM
3	Needs a much better National Coordinator. IDO's need to report more to their employers about what they are doing and what outcomes. Seems to be very busy but not sure what doing.	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
4	i think the IDO's should be more of a conduit of project ideas direct to HIAL from growers	12/7/2018 4:15 PM
5	Continue to run grower workshops/evening BBQ's in both the Lockyer Valley and Stanthorpe areas on different topics. Has also been useful in getting growers to network more.	12/7/2018 3:12 PM
6	Continue as in the past.	12/7/2018 11:36 AM
7	I do not have any specific suggestions at this time.	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
8	The vegnet program is great for providing any changes in the industry to a local location, which saves on my time away from the office as there is just not enough hours in the week.	12/7/2018 10:17 AM
9	ABSOLUTELY! Before our business became aware of the IDO for our area, we were poorly informed about everything in the agricultural industry. When Pat first came to our farm and introduced himself we felt like we were a part of the farming community and not excluded anymore because we weren't one of the "big farmers" in the area. Pat has made all of us in the farming community feel valued and important and has taken that extra step to invite us to events and show and teach us ways of improving our business. No other IDO has done this before. He is a very valued member of the farming community who can communicate with a wide variety of people. Since he has been in this IDO position, he has made some major improvements in the area and has given us, the farmers, extensive opportunities to expand our knowledge and business practices. Prior to his employment a lot of farmers in the area looked down on the VegNET project and didn't see the importance of a person in this role can have on our rural community. Although, I do not have many suggestions for improvements, I do value Pat's contributions and organisation skills - we have learned so many things that we can help us with our business. I really think the networking lunches etc are very useful and great to hear what the other farmers are experiencing. Also, it is really beneficial when Pat is able to visit each farm and check up on us to offer advice etc if we may have a challenge ahead.	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
10	no	12/5/2018 10:57 AM
11	-	12/5/2018 8:31 AM
12	a	12/4/2018 8:50 PM
13	Happy with the service so far	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
14	The group is a group of farmers wanting to make a difference in the valley. IDO must treat them equally and with respect at all times even though everyone has a different option. You also must abide by the rules in the contract.	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
15	no	12/4/2018 8:55 AM
16	Address gaps in engagement and extension - eg. green bank/ fassifern. R&d in the vegetable industry is not just done by HIA so it's good to get a balance of levy funded r&d and also private r&d incl machinery advances and precision ag, new chemical and ipm advances, market development opportunities incl organically, making opportunities from waste and export etc	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
17	Absolutely. The IDO role is hugely important. Our local IDO has brought people together on a whole new level. Our growers are talking, sharing ideas with each other. Helping each other in difficult circumstances (Drought/Flood etc) The project needs to be more streamlined with other States/regions. The IDO's need a central reporting system. Our IDO has done a fantastic job over the last few years and the grower's will be far worse off should the project not continue.	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
18	More R&D Extension Collective bargaining power for non-competitive costs (e.g. power, audit costs, etc.)	12/4/2018 7:41 AM
19	N/a	12/4/2018 7:30 AM

Q13 Please provide any other comments

Answered: 9 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Well done, need more of this. Have assisted my role greatly (also Hort Innovation funded)	12/24/2018 11:47 AM
2	Growers in our area have benefited greatly from Lockyer Valley Growers being able to employ an IDO. Although not without challenges the concept of growers getting together to learn not only from presenters but each other has been extremely beneficial. The Lockyer Valley Committee however do a lot of the work to support the activities of the group which sometimes makes the current IDO 'look good'. IDO's are not the experts however do seem to want to be perceived as experts and sometimes seems to think they are Private Consultants, seeing Growers one on one but not reporting any of these types of activities. The group activities however seem to be a great use of levy funds.	12/9/2018 11:38 PM
3	I would like to say that any project that is able to bring farmers from all walks of life together can only be positive outcome, providing an outlet to monitor mental health and lowering suicide rates within the farming communities.	12/7/2018 11:03 AM
4	I truly believe that the IDO position is extremely important in our area. Pat is the perfect person for the job. He is extremely organised and brings so much knowledge from all aspects of life that he is willing to share with us to help us. I believe that he has the capabilities to include ALL the farmers and agricultural business people in our region to share a united friendship and eliminate status quo between the "big farmers" and the "little guys". He has the ability to reach out to all people and listens to us when we need industry help. He is great at organising industry representatives to come to the community to teach us things eg work place health and safety. This is greatly appreciated and valued because I would never take the time off work to travel to the city to go and learn about this stuff (there is always too much to do on the farm!). We really need Pat to keep this position past 2019. He is the best person for the job and I have found his role to be extremely beneficial both to our business and to our area. It would be very disappointing to see this contract come to an end and watch our lovely farming area fall back into the dark and not know anything about what's going on in our industry.	12/5/2018 9:40 PM
5	Would love to see this initiative continue	12/4/2018 4:41 PM
6	I feel we need an IDO that has passion for the industry. Maybe someone in the farming community.	12/4/2018 11:48 AM
7	One of the learnings from the decade of landcare was continuity of staff was essential when engaging with landholders to enable on ground change to result. Industry extension is not too dissimilar and there will be significant loss of momentum if the program didn't continue or if there was a gap in the program	12/4/2018 8:22 AM
8	The Lockyer and Fassifern Valley, as well as the Coastal, Darling Downs and Stanthorpe regions are significant levy paying regions. These regions certainly need an IDO going forward.	12/4/2018 8:11 AM
9	N/a	12/4/2018 7:30 AM

Appendix 7

Seminar evaluation summaries

LVG - Seminar summary

October 2016

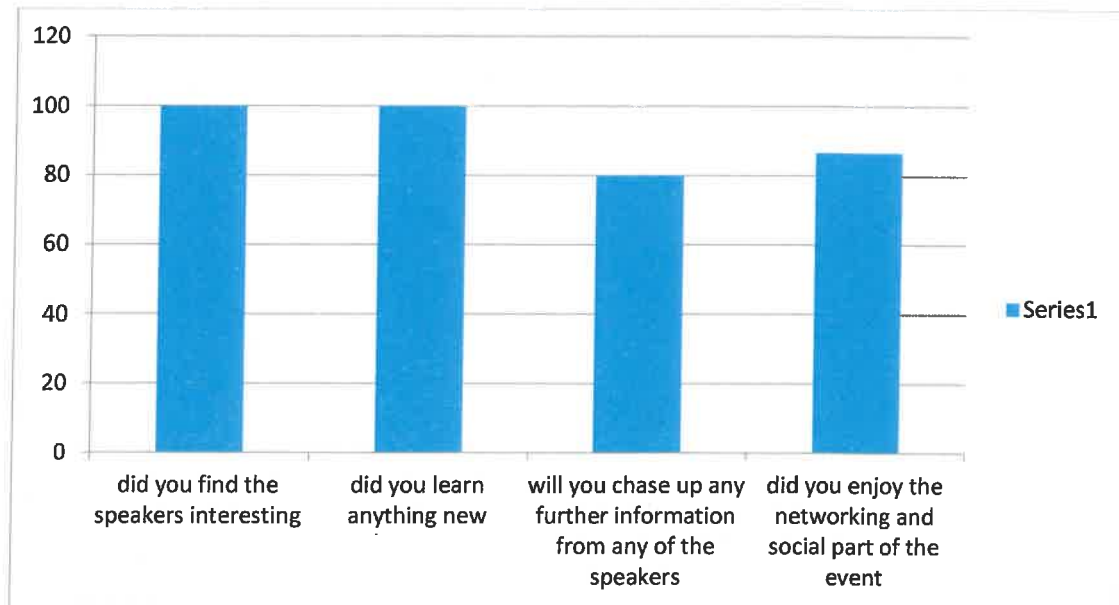
Three seminars have been conducted across the Southern Queensland region attracting 70 growers and industry representatives:

1. Stanthorpe (Granite Belt)
2. Toowoomba (Darling Downs)
3. Gatton (Lockyer Valley)

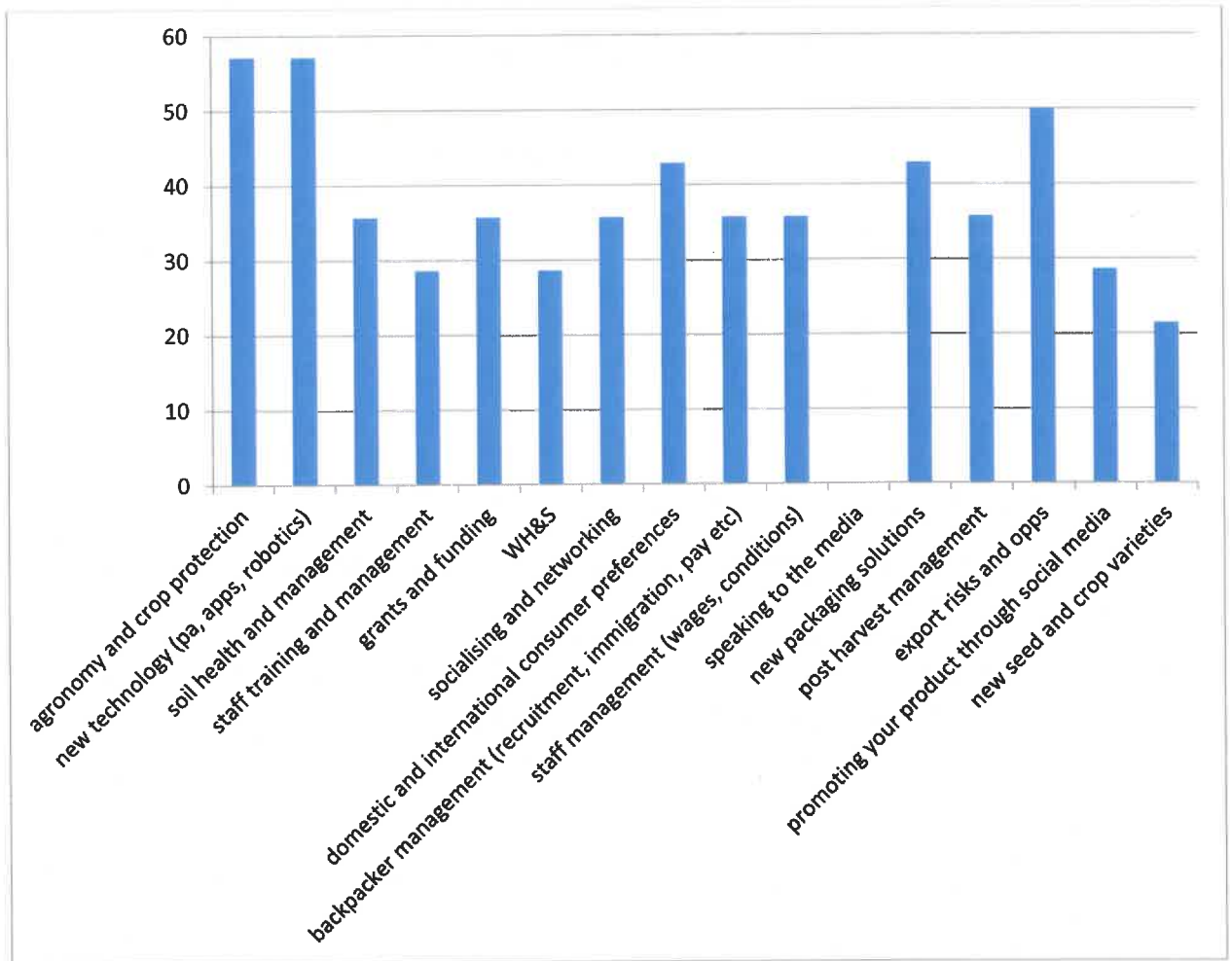
Presentations addressed the following topics:

- New machinery technologies including precision agriculture, GPS and yield monitoring (Vanderfield)
- Environmental and water management technologies
- Hort Innovation/ Ausveg scholarship scheme (Rimfire Resources)
- Orora: Data logging and tracking opportunities
- Innovative packaging opportunities for export (QDAF).

The Monitoring and evaluation data collected from these workshops is summarised in the following graphs:



Graph = Summary of outcomes from seminar participants



Graph = Summary of participants learning priorities

Gatton

August 2017

Vegetable grower seminar

Agenda items:

- Young Growers trip summary - Pat Salter
- Exporting fresh vegetables to South Korea (KAFTA) – Clinton McGrath and Bron Ford
- Innovative fertilizer options - Landmark





Seminar summary: April 2017

Vietnamese vegetable growers

Gatton, QLD

Presentations addressed the following topics:

- Pest and disease management (NSW DPI)
- On-farm biosecurity (QDAF – Biosecurity Queensland)
- Residue compliance (QDAF)
- Identification and management of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (QDAF - Biosecurity Queensland)

Due to language constraints and barriers, no formal evaluation was conducted. Attendance numbers and photographs have been used as a surrogate for formal feedback.



Young Growers extended tour to Stanthorpe.

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the Wednesday the 16th February 2018. This event was the first of the Grower lead BBQ series for the calendar year. The nature of the tour was to highlight the limitations of the region and the methods taken to grow produce within the region. The event showcased several innovative pieces of equipment and highlighted unseen farming practices (farming on smaller confined blocks of cultivation) that the young growers haven't experienced before. The growers took part in a grower feedback survey, 7 out of 12 which equates to 58% of the attendees completed a feedback survey. The results of their feedback considered the tour to be excellent.

The tour was guided by Mr Clinton McGrath from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Stanthorpe. Clinton's itinerary for the day was to showcase the four regions that exist in Stanthorpe and the diversification of the produce grown across the region due to climatic variations and soil profiles. The attendees of the tour were shown and introduced to the following businesses.

- Hendriksen Strawberry Farm – In this discussion the growers were shown the raised beds, irrigation regimes and the weed management strategy on farm. The take outs from the visit included:
 - that the site was susceptible to rain.
 - lack of available water, this grower is lucky to have a bore on site.
 - use of technology to weigh product in the field and assign it to a picker.
 - shallow and poor soil profile.
- Arcidiacano Farms – This visit was separated into two aspects. The growers were able to see more conventional farming practices with the main difference being in the irrigation methods and bed formation between the capsicums paddocks and the previous visit.

Out of the paddock the Archie boys allowed the growers to have a look at their packing shed. The group has invested in the latest of technology to grade, inspect and xray the produce before it is packed. The technology has allowed the group to go to the market with confidence and minimise the rejection rates of the produce and pack a more uniformed product.

- Kirra Pines – Tim Carniel owner and operator of Kirra Pines spoke openly to the growers around the operation of his family's farm and diversification of land holdings to secure water and temperature variations to prolong their season within the region. Tim also gave the growers an insight of what has worked well for him and the trials and tribulations that he has navigated through. The take home message from Tim was to know your numbers and maintain the quality of product to the market.
- Talyors Produce – The tour was guided through a number of paddocks to highlight the differences even within one farming operation and the level of infrastructure required to farm within the region. The growers looked at the excavation work needed to clear the landscape to form blocks to grow produce and the degree of diversification within the operation to run cattle on compartments of land scattered with granite boulder outcroppings. The running of cattle assists with the biosecurity measures on farm with the removal of grasses and weeds.

- Savio Farms – The growers were shown the degree that some growers will go to with the installation of a hail cannon. The hail cannon is used by the grower to shoot a blast into the atmosphere to change the air pressure and in theory break up the hail storm before it hits.
- The Vedelago family showed the group, the measures that they have invested into protect their crop from hail storms in the region. The trees are planted closer together and they have installed netting over the orchard. The group is currently changing the netting system to a “V” catchment system, that encourages the hail to fall into the “V” and fall between the rows of trees, minimising the damage that can caused by these events.

Of the following questions asked, 100% of the respondents rated the tour “excellent”

In response to the question “As a result of today’s tour, did you see or learn something you may be able to implement in your business?” 100% of the respondents said Yes.

Additional questions were asked of the attendees and their written and verbal responses to the below questions include:

1. Any other comment or suggestions?

There was only one response: - Stanthorpe needs more water and the soil is terrible.

Data Table - collated feedback response forms

Question	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
How do you rate the opportunity to network with other growers and farmers on the tour?								100%
On a scale of 0 -7 (7 being excellent) how do you rate the opportunity of visiting farms growing crops other than vegetables in a different region and climate?								100%
On a scale of 0 -7 (7 being excellent) how do you rate the opportunity of visiting farms growing crops other than vegetables?								100%
Overall how did you rate the tour? On a scale of 0 -7 (7 being excellent).								100%

Question	Yes	No
As a result of today's tour, did you see or learn something you may be able to implement in your own business?	100%	

Lockyer Valley Workshop – 14th February 2018

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the 14th February 2018 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries conference room in Gatton. The attendance to this event was low due to the fact it was held on Saint Valentine's Day. As we were already committed, the event went ahead. There were 27 participants that attended, and 10 feedback forms were completed from the event, their responses are noted in the below table and comments provided.

	No Use	Fairly useful	Useful	Very useful	Extremely useful
Overall, how useful was the seminar to you?			20%	70%	10%
How useful was the discussions with others during, before or after the seminar?		10%	30%	40%	10%
Do you intend making changes to any aspect of your business as a result of attending/participating today's activity.		20%	20%	40%	20%

The overall comments from the feedback sheets were as follows,

- Very Good
- Good Speakers / always interesting
- Well done

Prior to the presentations, the LVG held a special meeting about the awareness of the potential chemical resistance that the Diamond Back Moth is forming in the greater Lockyer region. This meeting was attended by growers, retailers, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and suppliers. The aim of this meeting was to form a specialised commitment to formulate an action plan for the use of Group 28 chemistry within the Lockyer region. This meeting was attended by 15 individuals.

Presentations for the evening included the following:

- Karen George – QWAN/ Growcom – this presentation was focused on the opportunities for the growers to investigate the use of migrant workers from a number of sources. These included the the seasonal workers program and the migrant workers scheme that is supported by community groups within the Southern Queensland region.
- Pat Salter – Vegnet – Roles and Responsibilities under VG15041, within the presentation a diagram was presented to the audience on the clear project deliverables and what is expected of my position. The diagram also depicted aspects of the role of the Lockyer Valley Growers group and its deliverables to the members of the group. This was received well by

the growers and opened into some detailed discussion during the BBQ aspect of the meeting.

- Michael Sippel – President of LVG and committee spokes person of the Diamondback moth insecticide resistance management strategy, spoke openly about the concerns around the potential resistance to the Group 28 chemistry in the Lockyer Region and the formalisation of a specialist group to develop a strategy for the region over the next 12 months. This strategy will be presented to the Brassica growers across the region at a meeting scheduled for early March 2018.
- Bronwyn Ford – Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Extension Officer, spoke to the attendees regarding the opportunities out and about around grants and advisory assistance available to growers. The presentation was called the “The good, the bad and the ugly”, each section had a specific key function associated to it. For example:- “the good” were the current grants available to growers and the “the ugly” depicted the advisory assistance programs. Bronwyn’s presentation was supported by a hand out and the growers asked questions throughout her presentation. This was also followed up with conversations at the BBQ.
- Gordan Van Der Est – Spokes person for the Lockyer Valley Water Alliance – Gordan spoke to the group openly on the current position on the group and the opportunities going forward with the development of the LVSWSS (Lockyer Valley Somerset Water Security Scheme). The members of this committee include – Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, The University of Queensland, and other interested stakeholders including not for profit industry groups.
- Photos of the event

Engagement



Interaction after the presentations





Stanthorpe Industry Workshop – 15 May, 2018

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the 15th May 2018 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Office in Applethorpe. 35 industry representatives who support the region attended and their feedback of the workshop was deemed very useful.

Presentations for the evening included the following

- The Queensland Farmer Federation presented on the current energy efficiency projects and grants available to the growers.
- Cardno and five delegates from the seasonal worker program spoke openly to the group. The presentation detailed the current requires of growers to register as an approved employer. The presentation was by a local grower that is now an approved employer.
- The presentation from the STOCR group demonstrated savings to growers and the environmental benefits of the material utilised in the field.
- Clinton McGarth presented the findings of the KAFTA project. The information within this session was valuable to the growers in the region that are potentially ready to expand into export markets.

Of the following questions asked, 78.3% of the respondents rated the presentations and the meeting "Very Useful or Extremely Useful."

- Overall, how useful was the seminar to you?
- How useful were the discussions with others during, before or after the seminar?

In response to the question "Do you intend making changes to any aspects of your business as a result of attending/ participating in today's activity?" 62.5% of the respondents said Yes.

Additional questions were asked of the attendees and their written, and verbal responses to the below questions include:

1. Any comment or suggestions for future topics?

- Nah – Job Well done
- Extend Korean visa's – 5yrs min
- Thanks
- Great Location and Hospitality
- Great diverse range of interesting topics
- It was very pleasant and well presented and BBQ was delicious
- I find any workshop is of great interest and information is always helpful
- All good

Lockyer Valley Workshop – 16 May, 2018

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the 16th May 2018 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Office in Gatton. 42 participants attended this event and 95.2% of them provided feedback on the workshop

Presentations for the evening included the following:

- Gordon Van Der Est – Lockyer Valley Water Users – Gordon provided a great over view of the current water issues in the valley and broke down a number of elements of proposed future water security for the valley and also the current issues regarding water. He's knowledge on this subject is informative.
- Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the CEO of the newly form collaborative spoke about the project under way in the valley regarding water security and future water for the horticultural producers in the valley. This presentation was well received and the audience asked pointed and relevant questions.
- Clinton McGarth presented the findings of the KAFTA project. The information within this session was valuable to the growers in the region that are potentially ready to expand into export markets. He provided relevant information and practical demonstrations and photo's of the trip. Austrade have deem the project a success.

The response from the, do you intend making changes to any aspects of your business as a result of attending / participating in this event?

The result of respondents to this question favoured a "NO" response at 28.6%

The attendees were also asked to provide written responses to the below questions include:

1. As a horticultural producer, do you have any comments or suggestions for future BBQ presentations/topics?

There was no relevant responses to this question. Well done was one response.

Data Table - collated feedback response forms

Presentations	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Useful	Fairly Useful	No Use	Nil responses
Water User Forum	19%	45%	21%	7%	0%	8%
Lockyer Valley Regional Council and CEO of the Lockyer Valley Somerset Water Collobrative.	14%	50%	23%	9%	0%	4%

KAFITA Presentation	19%	40%	26%	7%	0%	8%
Overall, how useful were the presentations to you or your business?	14%	57%	19%	5%	0%	5%

Question	Yes	No	Nil Response
Do you intend making changes to any aspects of your business as a result of attending / participating in this event?	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%

Photo's of the event



Workshop 3. Rippa robot to the Lockyer Valley.

On the 26th June 2018, the team from Sydney University and RMCG demonstrated the Rippa robot on Simons Farms in the Lockyer Valley. 16 vegetable growers supported this event from across the region. The team provided a practical demonstration of the Robot and its latest of applications that the team have been working on. The robot showcased the spectral imaging of the plants in the field. This application provides a visual representation of each plant and colour codes it depending on the health of the plant. On every pass the robot takes a photo of each individual plant, once the data is up load to the growers computer system, they can inspect each plant individually, this provide real data.

The presentation was also complimented by having Celia Van Sprang from The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries showcasing the National Precision Agricultural project to provide a brief update.

A four-page feedback was provided to the growers to complete, a snapshot of the feedback includes the following.

Below are the responses from the following question on the feedback form.

Question.

Please provide details of what you are planning to follow up and / or take actions on?

Responses

1. Weeding
2. Follow cost of concept
3. Broader applications
4. Rippa
5. Probably just in keeping interest on further developments
6. Weed spraying and Mapping

Question

Please provide any other comments or feedback (e.g. what could have made the event more beneficial to you?)

Responses

1. Not progress enough after 3 years of project. Based on current technology.
2. Watching it weed / spray in person
3. Great work.

Copies of all feedback are included as an appendix ????? just due to the complexity of the types of question asked.

Ausveg Reverse Trade Mission

June 2018 - Gatton, QLD

Presentations addressed the following topics:

- VG16009 – Adoption of Precision Systems Technologies in Vegetable Production (QDAF: Celia van Sprang)
- VG16167 – Impact of IPM compatible products on beneficial insects that are important in Australian vegetable crops (QDAF: Zara Hall)
- Vegetable production in Queensland (QDAF: Clinton McGrath)
- Vegetable production in the Lockyer Valley (Lockyer Valley Regional Council).



Workshop 4. Quarterly BBQ

Lockyer Valley Workshop.

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the 15th August 2018 at the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries conference room in Gatton. This BBQ was split in two due to the diverse chose of presentations. The event started with an hour presentation on the seasonal workers program. The event paused to have dinner and than flowed onto four additional presentations.

The four presentations that made up this event included the following.

1. Mr Richard Macchiese – the head of innovation and technology at VISY Australia. Richard showcased the latest technology held by Visy. The technology included a space saving export shipping carton (iceless technology).
2. Celia Van Sprang and Julie O'Halloran, presented a current hort innovation project update on (VG ?????) the National Precision Agriculture project.
3. Dr Jitka Kochanek from the University of Queensland presented her findings on another Hort Innovation project “ Improved on Farm Vegetable seed Quality”
The audience found this topic to be very interesting.

The responses collected on feedback sheets are as follows.

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Useful	Fairly useful	No Use	No response
How useful was the presentation from Mr Tony Lotton and the team of presentors for the seasonal Workers Program to you or business.	20%	20%	12.5%			47.5%
Did you or your business find the Precision ag presentation from Celia / Julie for the depoartment of Agricultural and Fisheries useful.	8%	12.5%	21%	17%	12.5%	29%
How useful did you or your business find Dr Jitka Kochanek from the University of Queensland presentation on	21%	29%	8%	8%	4%	30%

Improved on Farm Vegetable seed Quality.						
Overall, how useful were the presentation to you or your business?	20%	30%	8%	8%	0%	34%
In regards to the presentation from Mr Gordon Van Der Est regarding the water project, did you find the information useful to you or your business?	25%	20%	12%	0%	0%	43%

The overall comments from the feedback sheets were as follows,

- Good work
- Well done
- Advanced knowledge of the dates and times of events
- Keep it coming. Love hearing what's going on in the valley.
- Potential Friday night Brby and Drinks on farm. Grower group to supply courtesy bus. Could rotate between growers.

Photos of the event

Engagement



Interaction after the presentations



Workshop 5.

Stanthorpe Industry Workshop.

Lockyer Valley Growers Inc. under the VegNet project VG15041, held an event on the 25th September 2018 at Taylors Family Produce in Amiens. 17 horticultural growers from the region attended and their feedback of the workshop was deemed a success. This workshop was conducted in the packaging shed of Ray and Connie Taylor, it is the first on farm workshop in the region for over 5 years. The growers enjoyed the change from the QDAF centre at Applethorpe.

Presentations for the evening included the following

- Q&A session with the Taylor Family. This presentation cover topics on why the group moved to Stanthorpe, current challenges, on farm operations and the importance of quality systems in place to assist with the day to day operation of the business. An attempt was made to live feed this component via facebook, but due to the lack of mobile connectivity.
- Innovate AG – This presentation focused on the introduction of a new mode of chemistry to support the growers in the coming season. The innovate Sero –X product is currently of a scientific trail permit targeting Silver leaf white fly in vegetable crops.
- Clinton McGarth – QDAF senior horticulturist, Demonstrated the importance of banker plants with the field design for a successful IPM strategy. In using banker plants in a complete strategy on farm, the growers are not removing all of the beneficalians from the site.
- Clinton McGarth presented an interesting presentation on how may the contamination within the strawberry industry affect vegetable growers. This presentation was focused on packaging and how easy it was for pre-packaged produce be affected. The eyes in the room paid very close attention to this presentation.
- Vegnet VG15041 – The Industry Development officer provided a detailed account of the current actions and an update on the project. It was stressed to all vegetable growers in the room, if there was a concern on farm and they need assistance to please not hesitate in contacting the officer.

Of the following questions asked, 76.5% of the respondents rated the presentations and the meeting “Very Useful or Extremely Useful.”

- Overall, how useful was the presentation to you or your business?

In response to the question “ Do you intend making changes to any aspects of your business as a result of attending/ participating in today’s activity?” 58.3% of the respondents said Yes.

Additional questions were asked of the attendees and their written, and verbal responses to the below questions include:

1. Any comment or suggestions for future topics?

- No it was good.
- Interesting
- Interested in using Sero – X
- Great idea to have on farm – allows for networking and socialisation.

Workshop 6.

Working Lunch – Cyber Security

This event was raised as one topic that needs further in-depth investigation from a grower as the region had been subjected to a number of attacks. The head of the NAB cyber security department delivered this presentation. The delivery of this presentation was via a webinar, this is the second webinar developed and presented under the current project. The presentation was conducted over an hour and the participants of the group actively participated in the presentation with current examples. It was alarming how two participants' were affected by the same attack.

The following statistics were collected from the participant's via a feedback sheet.

	Extremely Useful	Very Useful	Useful	Fairly Useful	No Use
How useful was the information presented from the NAB group to you or your business today	58%	42%			

Did you enjoy the format of the meeting and the use of the webinar platform?

- 92% of the participants responded "YES" to the format utilised at this workshop.

Was the venue acceptable for this type of presentation?

- 100% of the participants responded "YES" to the format utilised at this workshop.

Do you intend making changes to any aspects of your business as a result of attending / participating in this workshop?

- 92% of the participants responded "YES" to the format utilised at this workshop.

Gatton

February 2019

Diamondback Moth Resistance Strategy

