

Workshop on quantitative methods applied to horticultural improvement

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Ltd

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Know-how for Horticulture™

Project AH08010 Workshop on quantitative methods applied to horticultural improvement

Milestone 190.03: Outcomes of Workshop

30th of November 2008

Summary

A 2 day interactive workshop on the application of quantitative methods to genetic improvement in horticultural crops was undertaken on the 24th-25th July 2008 following the Australian Society for Horticultural Science Conference on the Gold Coast.

Quantitative approaches are the method of choice in many crop, forestry and animal breeding programs. Application to horticultural breeding is, in part, limited by the depth of understanding of the opportunities and constraints of this technology.

This workshop provided conceptual and practical knowledge to participants on the application of quantitative methods to horticultural genetic improvement. To ensure participants were provided with the best opportunity to develop and understand this technology, there was a structured learning approach. Fundamental concepts were introduced and interactive examples used to reinforce these concepts and then more complex concepts were explored by building upon these concepts.

The workshop was undertaken by Dr Craig Hardner and Mrs Alison Kelly, both of whom have extensive backgrounds in application of quantitative methods to genetic improvement.

Outcomes

38 scientists from 13 organizations nominated to attend this workshop. There were also inquiries from 3 others who could not attend the conference but were interested in the workshop. In the conference evaluation 5% of attendees indicated they were satisfied to very satisfied with the workshop with 50% indicating they were very satisfied with the workshop. One respondent indicated that the workshop was the reason they attended the conference. Another respondent expressed disappointment that the workshop was concurrent with other workshops meaning they had to make a choice between the quantitative methods workshop and others. This may be particular issues as the material in the workshop was developed in a progressive manner and so those missing earlier sections may have found it difficult to come to grips with more complex issues later in the workshop.

Workshop materials were distributed to all participants and others that had expressed an interest but were not able to attend.