

APRIL 2011

Vegetable Industry Development Program

Accessing Useful Resources On-line



Introduction

There is so much information available on the internet that it can be overwhelming. Finding the right information can often be a challenge. This fact sheet will assist you in accessing useful information on-line for your business. In particular it describes how to access and use a new Research & Development (R&D) database, and other websites that are important to the vegetable industry. Relevant industry information that can be found on-line includes:

- Research results and their application
- Industry policies and representative organisations
- Regulatory requirements (including management of chemicals, OH&S and food safety)

Where can I find information on research findings?

Participants in the vegetable industry seeking tools and tips to help them manage their business and/or address technical challenges can go on-line to search a recently developed database called R+D Technical Insights. This database provides:

- Summaries of past and current R&D projects (for quick searches)
- Practical guidance resources for growers from completed R&D projects (such as fact sheets, technical papers or other on-line tools)
- Complete research reports (if you want detailed technical information)

How to use the R&D Technical Insights Database

Ways a user can search the database

There are a number of different ways you can search for information in the database. These include:

- **Direct search:** The user enters keywords for the specific area of interest, whether a disease or pest, a specific chemical application or other issue. An example of this type of search (for information on Diamondback Moth) is provided on the next page.

Key Messages

A new on-line database has been created which contains resources developed from all vegetable R&D projects funded using the National Vegetable Levy. Using this database you can:

- Obtain results of levy-funded research into a wide range of technical issues and challenges facing vegetable production in Australia
- Access tools that will assist you to apply research outcomes to your situation
- Obtain access to other related resources

All the insights and information contained in the database is classified and categorised to enable faster access, enhanced searchability and higher accuracy.

This database can be accessed by going to www.ausveg.com.au

- **Browse by focus or research area:** There may be times when you are not sure exactly what information you need. If this is the case you can search more generally by selecting a focus or research area such as 'irrigation', which will then provide you with all the irrigation related projects conducted for the vegetable industry.
- For example a research report discussing the use of water benchmarking in the vegetable industry is one of the search results provided for a general 'irrigation' search. If you click on the 'view precis' button you will be able to download this report and there will also be links provided to a range of related resources such as:
 - *Water Use Efficiency – Interpretation and training in the use of soil moisture data*



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- *Increasing water and nutrient use efficiency in vegetable production on sandy soils*
- *Australian vegetable crops – maximising returns from water*
- **Browse by vegetable type:** You may want to know what type of R&D has been conducted for a particular crop e.g. sweet corn. If you select 'vegetable' in the 'vegetable selection area' and then 'sweet corn' and hit search you will be provided with a range of projects on disease management, breeding and fertiliser management for sweet corn crops.
- If you are looking for a **particular type of resource** (such as a fact sheet, software tool or tour report) you can also select for this when conducting your search. For example if you are looking for a fact sheet on soil health you can select 'fact sheet' in the document type area and tick 'soil health' as a research area of interest, and then hit search. This will bring up a range of fact sheets covering soil health issues such as *'Diagnosing and ameliorating problem soils: decision tree on how to diagnose and ameliorate problem soils'*.
- **Narrowing the search:** A user can narrow the search by using one or more of the browse options in combination and/or by using a keyword. For example 'irrigation' and 'carrots'. You will then be presented with a fact sheet on carrot nutrition and irrigation that you can download.

An example of a direct search for information on Diamondback Moth (DBM)

Gary, a vegetable brassica producer in South-Western WA, often has to spray for large numbers of DBM during summer to avoid damage to his cauliflower and broccoli crops. He believes it would be helpful to know what are the latest research outcomes for controlling this pest in an integrated way, so he can reduce his input costs and cut down on his time on the tractor.

To find out what R&D has been conducted in this area, Gary can:

- Go to the AUSVEG website at www.ausveg.com.au
- Enter his user name and password (if you do not have these – you can register on-line with AUSVEG to get them).
- Choose the 'technical insights' tab from the light blue 'you are logged in banner', you will then be presented with a screen containing a summary of the major R&D focus areas on the left with two large buttons in the middle of the screen.

- Click on the large button on the right titled R+D Insights Database to enter the search engine (see above).
- Type in "Diamondback Moth" in the Keywords section and then hit the search button (see below).

- A range of resources will then come up which include the:
 - Title of the project
 - Description of the type of resource (i.e. research report, fact sheet, ute guide)
 - Summary of what the resource is about
- Click on either the 'view precis' button for a summary which describes the project and/or resource and also contains a link to any related work or reports
- Click on the 'download document' to download a copy of the actual report



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Where can I find other industry information?

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL)

HAL is a national industry-owned company that coordinates, invests and manages research and development (R&D) and promotional programs on behalf of Australia's horticultural industries. The National Vegetable Levy is forwarded to HAL for management. Through HAL, the levy is matched by the Australian Government dollar-for-dollar when invested in R&D activities. Approximately \$10 million is invested annually in the National Vegetable R&D Program. HAL does not conduct R&D itself. It contracts organisations such as state departments of agriculture, universities and the CSIRO to undertake the work.

Phone: 02 8295 2300

www.horticulture.com.au

AUSVEG

AUSVEG is the national peak industry body of Australian vegetable and potato growers. They represent the interests of growers to Government and work in partnership with HAL to ensure that the National Vegetable Levy and National Potato Levy are invested in R&D that best meets the needs of the industry. AUSVEG has a communications team which publishes the Vegetables Australia and Potatoes Australia magazines. The membership of AUSVEG is made up of the individual state-based vegetable growing organisations, which individual growers can join.

Phone: 03 9822 0388

www.ausveg.com.au

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's role is to develop and implement policies and programs that ensure Australia's agricultural, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable. Portfolios of DAFF include Australian

Quarantine and Inspection Service, Biosecurity Australia, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Australian Pest and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

Phone: 02 6272 3933

www.daff.gov.au

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

AQIS manages quarantine controls at our borders to minimise the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering the country. AQIS also provides import and export inspection and certification to help retain Australia's highly favourable animal, plant and human health status and wide access to overseas export markets. AQIS is the operational arm of quarantine.

Phone: 1800 020 504

www.daff.gov.au/aqis

Biosecurity Australia (BA)

BA provides science-based quarantine risk assessments and policy advice that protects Australia's favourable pest and disease status and natural environment and technical advice to enhance Australia's access to international animal and plant related markets. BA develops and reviews quarantine policies and works closely with AQIS.

Phone: 02 6272 3933

www.daff.gov.au/ba

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES)

ABARE provides rigorous and independent economic research analysis and forecasting. ABARE contributes to items on the Australian and international policy agendas, e.g. multilateral trade negotiations, climate change, water policy reform, issues in regional Australia, Australian farm performance and farm surveys. ABARE also produces regular quarterly forecasts for a wide range of export commodities (agriculture, minerals, energy, fisheries and forestry). In early 2009 ABARE published the report, Australian vegetable growing farms: an economic survey, 2006-07.

Phone: 02 6272 2000

www.abare.gov.au



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Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

The APVMA is responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides and veterinary medicines and for their regulation up to and including the retail point of sale. Their role is to independently evaluate the safety and performance of chemical products intended for sale, making sure that the health and safety of people, animals and the environment are protected. They also review older chemicals to make sure that they continue to meet contemporary high standards and have the capacity to issue permits to use Agriculture and Veterinary products in ways that differ from the information set out on the registered product label (minor use, emergency use and research purposes). Permit searches can be conducted on the APVMA website.

Phone: 02 6210 4701
www.apvma.gov.au

Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities (DSEWPC)

This department develops and implements national policy, programs and legislation to protect and conserve Australia's environment and heritage and to promote Australian arts and culture.

Phone: 02 6274 1111
www.environment.gov.au

Australian Government Department of Climate Change & Energy Efficiency (DCC)

DCC is charged with leading the development and coordination of Australia's climate change policies.

Phone: 02 6159 7000
www.climatechange.gov.au

Australian Government Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC)

RIRDC was established by the Australian Government to work with industry to invest in research and development (R&D) for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural sector. Specifically RIRDC invests in R&D in three areas: New rural industries (e.g. New Plant Products); Specific established rural industries (e.g. Organic Systems); National rural issues.

Phone: 02 6271 4100
www.rirdc.gov.au

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

CSIRO is Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world. CSIRO Plant Industry conducts research to promote profitable and sustainable horticultural industries (e.g. new and improved varieties and better management techniques). CSIRO has a diverse range of excellent publications available on their website.

Phone: 1300 363 400
www.csiro.au

Agsafe, drumMUSTER and ChemClear®

Agsafe implements three industry stewardship programs, The Agsafe Accreditation & Training Program, drumMUSTER and ChemClear®. drumMUSTER is the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable crop protection and animal health chemical containers. ChemClear® is the Industry funded national program for the collection and disposal of unwanted currently registered rural chemicals.

**Phone: 02 6230 4799; drumMUSTER –
02 6230 6712; ChemClear® – 02 6230 4799**
www.agsafe.com.au; www.drummuster.com.au;
www.chemclear.com.au

Farmsafe Australia

Farmsafe Australia is interested in protecting the health and safety of farmers, workers, family members and visitors to farms. The Farmsafe Australia network has implemented a range of programs and projects that are based on a sound evidence of need and effectiveness.

Phone: 02 6752 8218
www.farmsafe.org.au

On-Farm Assurance Programs

The following websites provide information about industry-owned food safety and environmental assurance programs.

www.ausveg.com.au/enviroveg.cfm
www.freshcare.com.au



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National Farmers' Federation (NFF)

The NFF is the peak national body representing farmers and, more broadly, agriculture across Australia. The NFF is dedicated to proactively generating greater understanding and better-informed awareness of farming's modern role, contribution and value to the entire community.

Phone: 02 6273 3855

www.nff.org.au

Protected Cropping Australia (PCA)

Protected Cropping Australia is the peak industry body for the Australian Hydroponic & Greenhouse Industry. PCA represents the industry nationally in an advocacy role; distributes information through conferences, seminars, newsletters and workshops; helps fund and provides in-kind support for industry research and development activities; and facilitates industry applications to regulatory authorities for use of specialist treatment products in greenhouse.

Phone: 02 9907 6633

www.protectedcroppingaustralia.org.au

Plant Health Australia (PHA)

PHA is the lead national coordinating body for plant health in Australia. PHA works in partnership with industry, governments, researchers and others, providing national coordination to improve biosecurity policy and practice across Australia's plant industries and to build capacity to respond to plant pest emergencies.

Phone: 02 6215 7700

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline – 1800 084 881

www.planthealthaustralia.com.au

Australian Horticultural Exporters' Association (AHEA)

The AHEA is the National Peak Industry Body of Exporters, committed to the development of the export of Australian Horticultural products, including vegetables. The AHEA is also a Designated Secondary Shipper Body negotiating shipping freight rates on behalf of members and the Horticultural Export Industry.

Phone: 03 9210 9380

www.ahea.com.au

Information Gateways & Resources

Australian Government Agricultural Portal:

A catalogue of Australian, State and Territory Government information and services for the agricultural, fisheries, processed food and forestry industries. Developed so clients no longer need to guess which level of Government they need to access to find the information or service they are looking for.

www.agriculture.gov.au

Infopest: To ensure you use the right chemical for the right job and to support responsible chemical use, Infopest products offer a comprehensive guide to all agricultural and veterinary chemicals and their permitted uses, plus Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

www.dpi.qld.gov.au/cps/rde/dpi/hs.xsl/4790_4885_ENA_HTML.htm

Caring for our Country Website: Provides information about natural resource management and funding opportunities.

www.nrm.gov.au

Harvest Trail: Links job seekers with harvest jobs Australia wide.

www.jobsearch.gov.au/HarvestTrail

Bureau of Meteorology: Provides weather forecasts and warnings, climate services, hydrology services and ocean services.

www.bom.gov.au

Australian Government Website: Link to information and services on around 900 Australian Government websites as well as selected state and territory resources.

www.australia.gov.au



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Assistance and Counselling Services

Beyondblue: Resources developed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to increase the capacity of the broader Australian community to prevent depression and respond effectively to it.

Phone: 1300 224 636

www.beyondblue.org.au

Lifeline Australia: A 24-hour phone counselling service and an information service providing access to a variety of self-help tools kits with information

about issues such as mental illness, depression, suicide prevention, and more.

Phone: 13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

Mensline Australia: A 24-hour phone counselling, information and referral service to support men and their families.

Phone: 1300 789 978

www.menslineaus.org.au

Australian Red Cross: Committed to helping those in need in our community.

www.redcross.org.au

Further Information

There is a range of great websites where you can access and download resources to assist you in managing your business. Each state primary industry R&D department and vegetable association has a website which provides R&D information, along with private organisation websites where you can access information on products and equipment. Website addresses for each state are provided below:

VIC: www.vgavic.org.au and/or www.dpi.vic.gov.au

NSW: www.nswfarmers.org.au and/or www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture

TAS: www.tfga.com.au and/or www.tiar.tas.edu.au

WA: www.vegetableswa.com.au and/or www.agric.wa.gov.au

QLD: www.growcom.com.au, www.dpi.qld.gov.au/home.htm, and/or www.bfvg.com.au

SA: www.pir.sa.gov.au

If you cannot easily access the internet or have little time to do so, ask somebody in your business, your state association or R&D organisation, agronomist or consultant to access the required information for you.

Acknowledgement

Information on national websites of relevance to the vegetable industry has been sourced from the National Vegetable Industry Services Guide developed by participants of the 2009 Vegetable Industry Strategic Leadership Course. Provision of this material by the participants is gratefully acknowledged.



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Disclaimer: These fact sheets are coordinated and edited by RMCG (ph: 03 9882 2670). RMCG produces these fact sheets with the expectation that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use. Before relying on or altering any business practices, users should carefully evaluate the accuracy and relevance of the information for their purpose and should obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to their particular circumstances.