

VG16060 - Vegetable Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities – 5th Quarterly Industry Update

SUMMARY

The Project Coordinator, Patrick Arratia, continues working to establish a database that identifies industry pest priorities and categorising them regionally. Using this database, the Project Coordinator generates a yearly pest priority list, resulting in the development of a gap list that identifies the top five pest and agrichemical priority needs for each commodity.

GROUND WORK

Industry consultation: During this quarter, the Project Coordinator has continued industry consultation and engagement with growers and agronomists. A workshop took place in Virginia SA, and one on one grower consultation in Adelaide Hills was also conducted, where growers and agronomists were consulted in regards to pest, diseases and weed issues affecting their crops. Capsicums, eggplants and cucumbers were the target crops in Virginia and Brussel sprouts in Adelaide Hills.

Agchem Forum: The Agchem forum, which is a platform that facilitates a direct and formal discussion between the users of agchem technologies and the manufacturers, took place in Melbourne in October 2018. Vegetable pest priorities were presented to agchem registrants for potential solutions.

Chemical Access Advisory Group (CAAG): As part of the project, the Project Coordinator has put together a panel of experts in each of the relevant disciplines such as management of insects, plant diseases, weeds and IPM. The second Chemical Access Advisory Group (CAAG) meeting has taken place the 21st of November, 2018. The objective of this meeting was to seek advice for an effective agrichemical prioritisation process; review pest priorities identified during industry consultation, assist in identifying agrichemical gaps, needs and potential solutions. Also outcomes from the 2018 Agchem forum were reviewed and discussed with the group before progression of any projects, if so recommended by Hort Innovation and the group. Also minor use requests received during industry consultation were reviewed by the group and are being followed up.

NEXT

VG16060 industry consultation continues, Project Coordinator will continue visiting vegetable growing regions so keep an eye open on Patrick. Please contact Patrick at patrick.arratia@ausveg.com.au or on 03 9882 0277, or contact your local VegNET officer for any further questions.

Upcoming workshops:

#	Date	Region	State	Venue	Targeted Crops
1	19/02/2019	Gatton	QLD	QDAF Research Centre	Brassicas
2	19/02/2019	Gatton	QLD	QDAF Research Centre	Lettuce
3	20/02/2019	Stanthorpe	QLD	Costanzo Lane	Capsicums
4	07/03/2019	Darwin	NT	Coastal Plains Research Centre	Okra, cucurbits
5	08/03/2019	Sydney	NSW	River Farm	Brassicas
6	08/04/2019	Geraldton	WA	Geraldton Multipurpose Centre	Cucumbers (PC)
7	Late May	Ayr	QLD	TBC	Peppers, cucumbers
8	Late May	Bowen	QLD	TBC	Peppers, cucumbers
9	Mid June	Gippsland	VIC	TBC	Leafy vegetables