

VG16060 - Vegetable Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities – 3rd Quarterly Industry Update

SUMMARY

The Project Coordinator, Patrick Arratia, is working in establishing a priorities database that identifies industry pest priorities and categorise them regionally. Using this database, the Project Coordinator will generate a yearly priority list for each commodity, resulting in the development of a gap list that identifies the top five agrichemical priorities for each commodity, to be supplied to Hort Innovation as a draft and final list, prior to the annual AgChem Collaborative Forum.

GROUND WORK

During this third quarter, the Project Coordinator has continued industry consultation and engagement with growers and agronomists. Four workshops have taken place during these last 3 months, were over 30 growers and agronomists have been consulted to discuss pest, diseases and weed issues in their regions.

Date	Region	State	Venue	Targeted Crop
04/05/18	Bundaberg	QLD	Bundaberg Business Enterprise Centre, Bundaberg	Sweetpotato
04/05/18	Bundaberg	QLD	Bundaberg Business Enterprise Centre, Bundaberg	Zucchini
16/05/18	Mareeba	QLD	Mareeba Leagues Club, Mareeba	Pumpkin
17/05/18	Atherton	QLD	Atherton International Club, Atherton	Sweetpotato

Pest, disease and weed issues, for targeted crops, were identified, discussed and ranked by the working group and subsequently added to the projects database.

AGCHEM FORUM

In conjunction with Hort Innovation R&D manager, a top 5 pest priorities list of pest, disease and weed issues has been put together and will be used by AgChem companies prior to the AgChem collaborative Forum.

The Agchem forum is a platform that facilitates a direct and formal discussion between the users of agchem technologies and the manufacturers. For the last three years Hort Innovation has gained access assistant grants for access to industry priority uses of agchem chemicals.

NATIONAL PEST SURVEY

This online crop specific national pest survey is an extremely important tool for this project to gather pest, disease and weed information from vegetable growers and agronomists across Australia. Information gathered via online crop specific surveys will compliment information gathered from industry consultation (workshops). Link to survey: <https://ausveg.com.au/vg16060/#Surveys>

NEXT REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

VG16060 industry consultation continues, in the next few months Patrick Arratia, project coordinator, will be visiting and conducting 2 crop specific workshops/working groups in the following regions:

- Coffs Harbour (NSW) Late July
- Perth (WA) Mid August
- Darwin (NT) Early September

So keep an eye open on Patrick, more details will be released soon! If you are interested in participating and/or if you would like to have one workshop hosted in your region, please contact Patrick Arratia at patrick.arratia@ausveg.com.au or on 03 9882 0277, or contact your local VegNET coordinator.