Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Horticulture Industry Network

Impact Report 2013 - 2016

Farm Services Horticulture

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

What is the HIN?

The HIN, established in 2008 by DEDJTR (formerly DPI/DEPI, Victoria), is a network of 21 national and state temperate horticultural industry organisations.

The member organisations work directly with 16,000 horticultural producers and land managers via their existing extensive networks.

These organisations operate under a range of governance arrangements independent of each other, and, in some cases, are small and lack critical mass. The HIN brings together industry professionals to create critical mass and facilitate the development of collective solutions to common issues more efficiently and effectively.

Victoria is the biggest horticulture producing state in Australia and accounts for 48% of Australia's horticultural exports.

The purpose of the HIN is to:

- enable across-industry collaboration;
- improve horticultural industry capability;
- accelerate practice change; and
- provide an efficient and effective link between horticultural industries and DEDJTR (Agriculture Victoria).

Networking Events

Digital Platform

Major Grants

VIA

Training Events

Industry Intelligence

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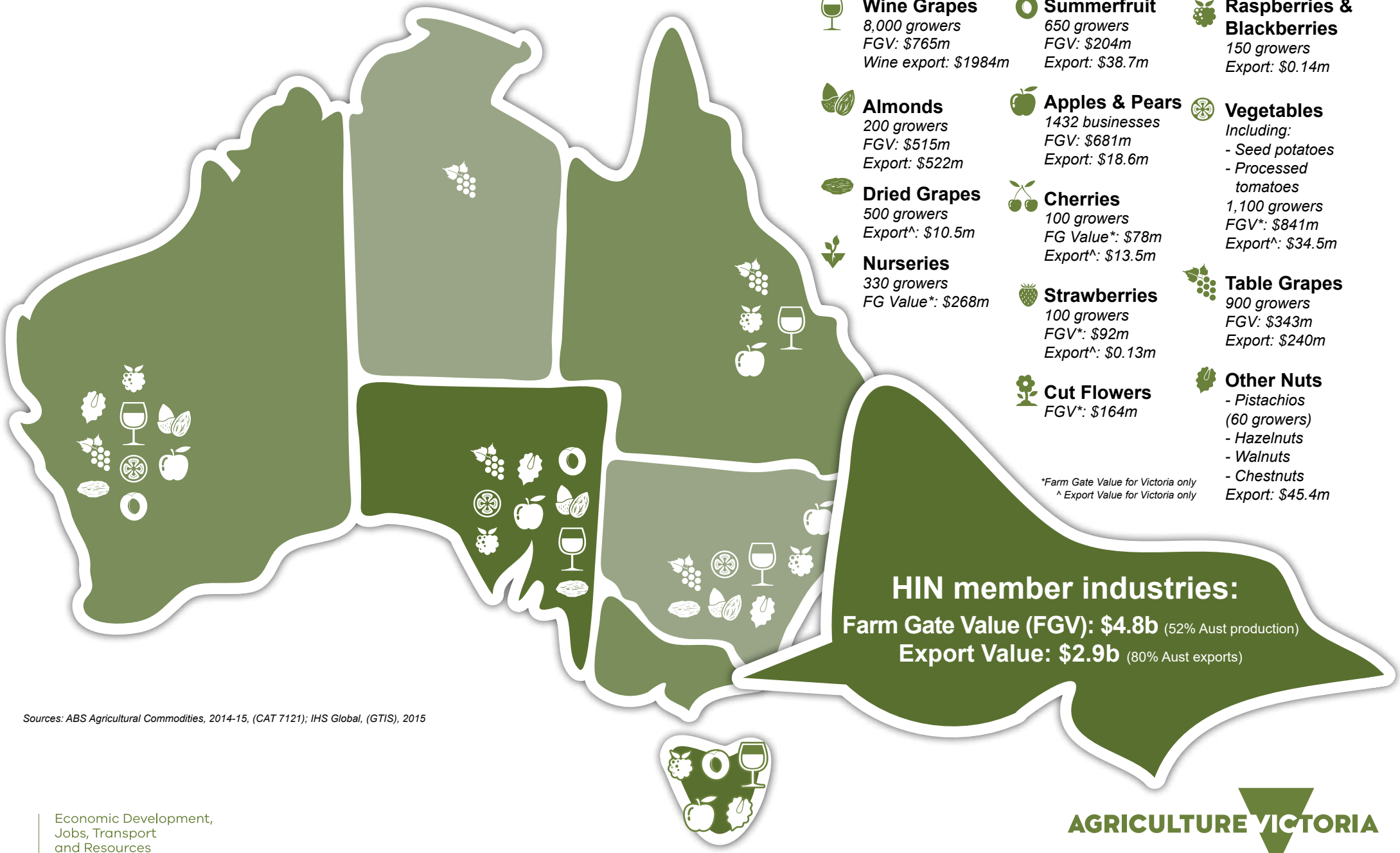
The HIN footprint



Map Legend

Wine Grapes
8,000 growers
FGV: $765m
Wine export: $1984m

Almonds
200 growers
FGV: $515m
Export: $522m

Dried Grapes
500 growers
Export^: $10.5m

Nurseries
330 growers
FG Value: $268m*

Summerfruit
650 growers
FGV: $204m
Export: $38.7m

Apples & Pears
1432 businesses
FGV: $681m
Export: $18.6m

Cherries
100 growers
FG Value: $78m*
Export^: $13.5m

Strawberries
100 growers
FGV: $92m*
Export^: $0.13m

Cut Flowers
FGV: $164m*

Raspberries & Blackberries
150 growers
Export: $0.14m

Vegetables
Including:
- Seed potatoes
- Processed tomatoes
1,100 growers
FGV: $841m*
Export^: $34.5m

Table Grapes
900 growers
FGV: $343m
Export: $240m

Other Nuts
- Pistachios (60 growers)
- Hazelnuts
- Walnuts
- Chestnuts
Export: $45.4m

**Farm Gate Value for Victoria only*
^ Export Value for Victoria only

HIN member industries:

Farm Gate Value (FGV): $4.8b (52% Aust production)
Export Value: $2.9b (80% Aust exports)

Sources: ABS Agricultural Commodities, 2014-15, (CAT 7121); IHS Global, (GTIS), 2015

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Significant achievements 2013-2016

- Through HIN events, members formed new connections with 63 researchers, 22 innovative businesses and 38 other government personnel including policy, trade and investment, biosecurity leading to:
- collaborative across-industry projects (e.g. Land use mapping for biosecurity), and
- the successful development of industry research applications for new initiatives.
- Sixteen temperate horticultural industries received biosecurity awareness training and industry liaison officer training. As a result of the increased awareness of the processes, Raspberries and Blackberries Australia (RABA) became a signatory to the Plant Health Australia Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) in 2016.
- The HIN website had 234,000 views over three years and the HIN Facebook page has 2,500 followers sharing research and industry information in a timely manner.
- 76 new videos were uploaded to the HIN YouTube channel since the end of 2014, with 18,500 views in 18 months.

- Thirteen quarterly industry updates were published delivering current industry intelligence to government.

The HIN major grant program supported several industries to deliver industry development projects over three years. The industry grantees co-contributed more than 50% towards the grants. Projects included:

- Australian Table Grape Association (ATGA) developing an export registration and training process which resulted in an 18% increase in registrations, successful registrations increasing from 61% to 91% and table grape exports doubling over the three years of the grant;
- Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) staging 103 events covering priority issues such as smoke taint, climate adaptation, quality management, agrochemical management and business management, and attended by 3,248 Greater Victorian wine growers and wine makers;
- Almond Board of Australia (ABA) adapting the OrchardNet® benchmarking program to assist the almond industry boost average production;
- (the former) Vegetable Growers' Association of Victoria (VGA) mentoring 15 vegetable industry personnel through leadership courses - including a Nuffield scholar who is now part of the VGA executive and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Horticulture Group - and drawing 3,070 attendees from vegetable businesses and service providers to best management practice events;
- Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV) promoting digital tools (e.g. OrchardNet® and GrowFruitApp), setting up demonstration sites and running events - with over 200 businesses attending - on topics such as the use of cooling irrigation systems to improve quality pack-out by 10-20%.

What has changed?

Improved coordination, collaboration and connectivity within the horticultural sector as demonstrated by:

Sharing of across industry issues and perspectives, leading to improvements in efficiency and effectiveness such as the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed example.

Government has access to industry intelligence provided on a quarterly basis by HIN member organisations.

Improvement in industry capability through training of industry such as the Industry Liaison Officer training.

HIN membership enabling smaller industry organisations (with one or two employees) to access courses tailored to horticultural industry professionals' needs (e.g. evaluation training), which has assisted these industries in overcoming isolation.

The extension of industry networks into government and vice versa leading to improved industry-government interactions such as a joint industry-government project.

Better coaching by, and mentoring between, HIN member industry professionals, leading to efficiency improvements such as an increased uptake and use of the more recent IT innovations such as the "cloud" (e.g. Google Drive) to help communication with industry stakeholders.

For further detail on selected HIN activities click on any of the images:

Training and networking: the HIN gets prepared for emergencies

Connecting to science: Meet the Scientists

Connecting to innovative businesses: Meet the Innovators

HIN grant: Australian Table Grape Association *(ATGA)*

HIN grant: Almond Board of Australia *(ABA)*

HIN grant: Fruit Growers Victoria *(FGV)*

HIN grant: Australian Wine Research Institute *(AWRI)*

HIN grant: Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria *(VGA)*

HIN Digital platform

HIN update

HIN event statistics

Further information

HIN evaluation videos 2015
http://www.hin.com.au/about-hin/hin-evaluation-2015:

- Benefits of the Horticulture Industry Network Program: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Js3tq1Nd9CQ&feature=youtu.be*
- Impacts of the Horticulture Industry Network Program: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-VXnIlpMWk&feature=youtu.be*

Link to HIN event videos:
http://www.hin.com.au/about-hin/videos-hin-meetings

HIN member organisations

National industry organisations:

- Australian Table Grape Association (ATGA)
- Almond Board of Australia (ABA)
- Raspberries and Blackberries Australia (RABA)
- Apples and Pears Australia Limited (APAL)
- Dried Fruits Australia (DFA)
- Australian Processing Tomatoes Research Council (APTRC)
- Pistachio Growers Association (PGA)
- Australian Walnut Industry Association (AWIA)
- Hazelnut Growers of Australia (HGA)
- Chestnuts Australia Inc (CAI)
- Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI)
- Summerfruit Australia Limited (SAL)

Victorian industry organisations:

- Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Cut Flowers
- Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV)
- AUSVEG Victoria formerly Vegetable Growers Association of Victoria (VGA)
- Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV)
- Swan Hill Summer Fruits Development Association
- Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Committee
- Victorian Cherry Association
- Victorian Seed Potato Authority (VICSPA)
- Murray Valley Winegrowers (MVW)

Agriculture Victoria Farm Services Horticulture Project Team:

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

Training and networking – the HIN gets prepared for emergencies

Agricultural industries are playing a critical role in the effective management of plant pest and disease incursions, as shown in the recent response to chestnut blight and the giant pine scale. Most horticultural industries have never been formally deployed to work within a State - led response and within an Incident Management Team (IMT). Unlike in other agricultural sectors, one plant pest can impact a number of different horticultural industries, and therefore it is important that all industries understand their roles and responsibilities within the IMT and work together - not only with the State response team but also with the other affected industries - by linking the State-led response to the industry, sharing industry information and giving feedback on proposed actions and programs.

In July 2016, HIN members from across 16 industries were trained to be Industry Liaison Officers (ILO) after completing an introductory online module provided by Plant Health Australia, which provided the foundations for response work. The ILO training was provided by Agriculture Victoria's Biosecurity branch and covered the main phases of an emergency response (including a mock emergency briefing at the State's Incident Control Centre), clarifying the ILO role as well as outlining tools and communication requirements of an emergency plant pest response.

The HIN members now have a clear understanding of both government and industry's responsibilities/roles in an emergency, and have confidence in the strategy, and the process, to assist Government in future emergencies. The industries are also equipped with an extended network of biosecurity contacts, and are able to identify knowledge gaps within their respective industries and how those gaps will need to be addressed in the near future to meet the challenges of exotic pest and disease incursions.

"This was a great opportunity to get insight into Incident Management Team structures and operation

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Connecting to Science - *Meet the Scientists*

Agricultural industries are usually good at keeping up-to-date with current research and participating in research networks specific to their crop. But many industries find it difficult to keep up to date with relevant research on other crops that could be easily adapted and adopted for their crops. Recognising the relevance of research on other crops and other cropping systems is difficult and scientific publications are not always easily accessible, or decipherable. These circumstances represent a particular challenge for horticulture due to the range of crops grown, climates, harvesting techniques, postharvest handling, and the maturity of each industry, its cohesiveness and the industry organisation representing producers.

Visits were organised to expose HIN members to the broad range of research being conducted by primary industries' agencies and universities in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, and by CSIRO. A significant outcome of this exposure was the development of a project application to the Commonwealth to identify land use classes from aerial images through the cross validation with industry, integrating ancillary datasets and new mapping. Four horticultural industries in the Sunraysia Pest Free Area agreed to collaborate on this project, donating time and datasets to the project which is aimed at protecting and enhancing market access for an area that produced $732 million in exports in 2014/15 alone. An additional outcome will be that the updated maps will ensure that nationally consistent spatial information is available to improve biosecurity risk management and emergency disease preparedness.

Connecting to Science - *Meet the Scientists (cont...)*

Tours of research facilities and visits to experimental sites provided additional awareness of the latest advances, technologies and services available to HIN members. These activities also enabled meetings with researchers and broad discussions on the generic applicability and adaptability of the new knowledge stemming from the research.

For example, during a visit to Agriculture Victoria's Mildura site HIN members inspected the open top chambers used since 2014 to expose Shiraz grapevines in the field to elevated CO_2 concentrations and/or elevated air temperature to assess the likely effect of the projected 2050 climate. Grapes from these vines are also fermented into wines in a small-scale winery on site to establish whether higher CO_2 and warmer air during grape growth effect the end product. This is an example of *paddock to plate* research, but, importantly, exposed HIN members to the concept that the whole of the value chain is amenable to investigation, and, hence, optimisation.

Connecting to innovative businesses – *Meet the Innovators*

Robert Green, Grower of the Year 2014, averaging 99.1 tonnes/ha of apples on this patch

On-farm innovations are often seen as a way to survive and/or prosper by capturing new opportunities, but this is not without challenges. Every industry has well known innovators, but there is limited knowledge of these innovators beyond their own industry. As a result, ideas and innovations in one industry tend to reside in an industry "silo".

During each (regional) tour, HIN members were connected with innovative businesses and leading growers through face to face discussions and learning innovative management practices *in situ.*

Visiting Robert Green, an apple grower in the Adelaide Hills region, was a stand-out example of the benefits of these tours. Robert was the apple industry's 2014 *Grower of the Year,* as well as the winner of the Kondinin Group-ABC Rural *Australian Farmer of the Year Award*. He showed HIN members intensive production systems and, as an early adopter of dwarfing rootstocks, he was able to show how these are working to improve quality and production. Robert also designed his own automated irrigation system that meets his orchard's water more efficiently. His high density orchards, complete with netting and reflective sheeting, consistently produce above average yields and his enterprise achieves high pack-out rates with fewer inputs such as water and labour, and on a smaller land footprint.

HIN members also learnt about netting and utilising plastic reflective sheeting, but, showing that information can go in both directions, the HIN members suggested - based on their own experiences - mechanisation options to further cut labour costs.

> *"Exposure to innovative techniques both within and across horticultural industries results in across industry learnings.*

BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Grant ATGA: Registration process to facilitate table grape exports to Asia

Asian markets demand for imported table grapes is growing, and Australia is well positioned to take advantage of this opportunity. However, growers need to be well equipped to produce and deliver the high quality grapes demanded. With the advent of Australian table grapes gaining access to new protocol markets, including China in 2011, growers had to comply with new rules and regulations. With over 200 individual table grape growers, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) did not have the resources to coordinate their exporting requirements.

Agriculture Victoria, through a three-year HIN grant, co-funded the Australian Table Grape Association (ATGA) to develop and co-ordinate an annual registration process including the training of growers, exporters and pest monitoring personnel.

Over the course of the project,

- grower registrations increased by 18%;
- the list of target markets expanded from only China in 2012 to include Thailand, Korea & Japan by 2014; and
- the success rate of businesses achieving registration standards improved from 66% at the outset of the project to 91% by 2014.

Over the same period, table grape exports increased from 30 kT tonnes to 80 kT tonnes.

The registration process has increased the level of interest amongst growers seeking to export their grapes into new markets (currently valued at over $150m); providing more options for their fruit from one season to the next. Due to the systems and processes the ATGA have adopted for protocol markets, many importing countries have expressed confidence in the industry, to the extent that the Chinese have not sent inspectors to Australia since 2013 and have indicated that should Australia continue to consistently export high quality, clean fruit, they could look at further beneficial revisions to the protocol.

Funding 2013 - 2015 >

	2012	2013	2014
Registrations received	149	150	175
Markets	China	China & Thailand	China, Thailand, Korea & Japan

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Grant ABA: Almond Benchmarking

Agriculture Victoria, through a HIN grant (2013-2015), co-funded the Australian Almond Board (ABA) to integrate an almond version of OrchardNet® with research & development and technology transfer to increase the industry's average production figures with the aim of maintaining the industry's overall competitiveness on the world market.

OrchardNet® is an online orchard database system designed by AgFirst Ltd (an independent New Zealand-based company specialising in horticultural consultancy). OrchardNet® has been used by Apple and Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) for apple orchards.

OrchardNet® provides growers and their industry partners the ability to track individual block and variety results, and provides an accurate picture of their total business operation. It also collates other data such as soil, leaf and fruit tissue nutrient analyses, tree physical metrics, water use, production forecasts, yields, production costs and returns, and a range of other physical input data to produce customised reports. Very little data is required to generate initial reports and growers can selectively enter data for the specific reports that interest them, providing quick feedback.

The platform's various reporting options allow growers to compare their performance to other growers within the database. In every case, data from other growers is anonymous and contributes to average and upper quartile data, ensuring grower privacy is maintained at every stage.

A user's manual and training video have been developed to assist almond producers using OrchardNet®.

Funding 2013 - 2015 >

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Grant FGV: Improving quality pack-out for pome fruit businesses

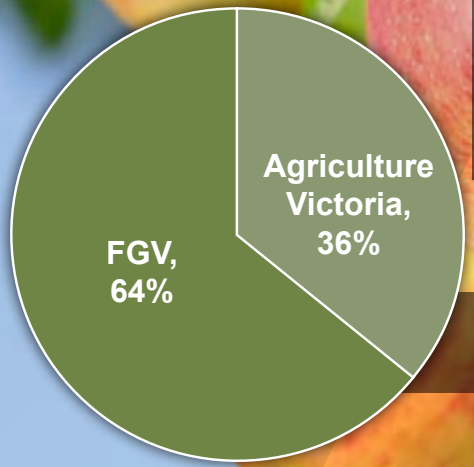
Agriculture Victoria, through a HIN grant (2013-2015), co-funded Fruit Growers Victoria (FGV) to support growers via a suite of initiatives to improve quality (better pack-outs) and hence sustain and grow the profitability of pome fruit production businesses.

OrchardNet®
OrchardNet®, a subscription based program developed by AgFirst, aims to assist apple growers to manage their crop at every point to achieve maximum profit. An apple grower from Gippsland has been using OrchardNet® for the past few years, and by being able to assess his management more easily has increased Gala pack-out by 6%.

High density block establishment
Two investment strategies were compared for the establishment of high density apple orchards. Plantings of trees under the 'one-year graft/one-season tree' (i.e. one year old rootstock, purchased in autumn/winter together with scion grafting wood, and planted in orchard in spring) were compared with traditional plantings of trees from an established nursery, budded to one year old rootstock and nurtured for 14 to 18 months prior to planting.
Traditional tree planting establishment costs were 156% higher than 'one-year graft/one-season trees' planting establishment costs. However, the traditional tree planting cropped one year earlier than the 'one-year graft/one-season tree' planting, and it was Year 6 before the yields were equivalent.

Minimise extreme heat event effects using overhead cooling sprays
Anecdotally, apple growers in the Goulburn Valley considered the benefits of overhead cooling sprays in achieving maximum pack-outs far outweighed the costs of installing the systems. "The 2013-14 season was a particularly difficult and prolonged hot season and we had the 'overheads' running for so long we actually reduced the amount off irrigation applied to the soil. For me, it's a proven result for a very small investment in excellent pack-outs," said an orchardist.

GrowFruitApp
The GrowFruit App (owned by FGV) is a web-based tool for the management of key moth pests (such as codling, oriental and light brown apple) in pome and stone fruit production.
It provides better spray timing based on degree day data modelling and trapping data, giving growers the confidence to apply more targeted specific insecticides to increase productivity and profitability. It is currently tested for mite activity predictions as well as connecting to growers' weather stations for more precise predictions.



Funding < 2013 - 2015

Activity	No. participants
Spraying systems field days	92
Managing orchard costs through mechanisation	40
OrchardNet	41 Victoria-based users
GrowFruit App	15 subscribers
Young leaders visited Nine Mile Fresh packing facility Tynong	10

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Grant AWRI: Extension program to improve capacity of Greater Victorian wine grape growers

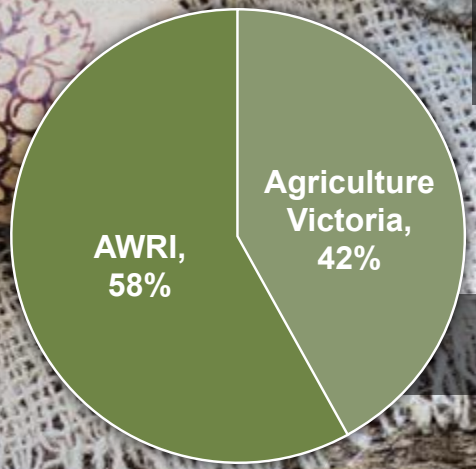
Agriculture Victoria, through a HIN grant (2011-2014), co-funded the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI) (in partnership with Wine Victoria [WV] – formerly the Victorian Wine Industry Association [VWIA]) and the Australian Grape and Wine Authority (AGWA – formerly the Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation [GWRDC]) through an industry development and extension project to improve the capacity of Greater Victorian wine grape growers and wineries:

- to manage grape and wine production during and after bushfires/controlled burns;
- to adapt to climate change and climate variability;
- to manage quality in the vineyard and winery;
- to manage appropriate agrochemical usage in the vineyard and winery; and
- to manage the business of grape and wine production.

This partnership and funding allowed the delivery of key technical events such as the "Smoke Taint Symposium" (2012), "Vintage 2030 and Beyond Symposium" (2013), the "Shiraz Symposium" (2014) and over 40 additional regional workshops/ seminars (over and above the AWRI roadshow and seminar events run in Victoria) on topics such as soil health, sustainable pest control, spray application, rootstocks, vine nutrition, Pinot Noir masterclasses, pepper and eucalyptus aromas in wine, winery refrigeration, precision viticulture, managing trunk diseases, smoke taint, sustainable low input viticulture and cost of production benchmarking.

This project addressed five key areas important to the wine industry in Greater Victoria:

1. **Smoke Taint** – strategies for managing and reducing the risk to grape growers and winemakers of producing smoke affected wines.
2. **Climate Adaptation** – how to deal with drought, salinity, extreme heat or heatwave events in the vineyard, bushfires and smoke taint, processing ripe fruit in the winery and avoiding stuck fermentations, and dealing with a compressed vintage and logistical pressures.
3. **Grape and Wine Quality Management** – improved knowledge and management techniques to continually improve the quality of grapes.
4. **Agrochemical Management** – spray application; managing bunch rots; and the identification and management of trunk diseases.
5. **Business Management** – improving business profitability.



Funding < 2011 - 2014

Topic	No. events	No. participants	No. articles
Smoke taint	23	743	3
Climate adaptation	27	945	4
Grape & wine quality management	20	605	3
Agrochemical management	24	724	13
Business management	9	231	1

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Grant VGA: Improved access to best practices and leadership opportunities for vegetable growers

Agriculture Victoria, through a HIN grant (2013-2015), co-funded the Victorian Vegetable Growers' Association (VGA) to increase adoption of technologies and networking, enabling vegetable growers to better access to information, to improve practices on-farm and increase participation in industry activities and leadership.

Leaders for the future

Whilst many excellent leadership courses were available to agricultural businesses, there was no uptake from the vegetable industry within Victoria. This was of particular concern to the many industry committees and boards who were looking at succession planning as they are struggling with an aging workforce. However, potential participants require financial, business and peer support.

Part of the HIN grant funded the VGA to mentor potential future vegetable industry leaders through recognised leadership training. Four participants took part in the Growing Leaders program and one received a Nuffield scholarship. The Growing Leaders program was designed to increase the confidence in dealing with all aspects of life and business, improving participant's skills in negotiations, conflict resolution and creating valuable networks.

The VGA mentored leadership programs have created future industry leaders for committees and boards as well as leaders in business and industry to ensure the future of the industry in Victoria. One such applicant gained a Nuffield scholarship and currently sits on the VGA executive, is vice president of the VFF horticultural council and is actively involved in Freshcare promoting vegetable nutrition.

Maintaining industry best practices

In Victoria, more than 500 vegetable growers produce around 40 different types of vegetables. Traditionally, growers relied on state government agencies, service providers and industry groups to provide information and extension activities, but most of these groups and agencies have scaled down these activities or reduced staff.

Part of the HIN grant funded VGA to increase growers' adoption of technologies and participation in industry activities with a range of communication tools. Victorian vegetable production has remained stable in terms of grower numbers and production. Growers have been able to maintain their production through implementation of best management practices to lower input costs and improve productivity. Many growers have introduced Integrated Pest Management (IPM), irrigation scheduling, nutrient monitoring and management, trained their staff, implemented quality assurance, and adopted new technologies based on relevant information supplied by the VGA and HIN. Service providers were also increasingly interested in disseminating relevant production and technology improvements.

Funding 2013 - 2015 >

Activity	No. participants/issues
'In-the-field' newsletter	77 issues (to average of 177 recipients)
'Vegetables Victoria' magazine	11 issues (to average of 400 recipients)
Website, facebook, twitter	2,500 hits per month (peaking at 5,000)
Industry member fliers	26 issues
National Vegetable Expo, Werribee	2,500 attendees
Leafy vegetable demonstration day	400 attendees
AusVeg field days	120 attendees
Lindenow Seed Company field days	50 attendees
Mentoring of vegetable industry personnel in Leadership Programs / Leadership Awareness courses	15 participants

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Digital Platform – social and digital media

Digital media (2013 - 2016)		
Website hin.com.au	234,000 page views	176,000 unique views
Projects on website	Profitable stonefruit 2,228 unique views	Profitable pears 1,051 unique views
E-newsletter	17 newsletters since May 2014	121 subscriptions 3,000 extended reach
Social media (2009 - 2016)		
HIN Facebook	2,485 followers	
YouTube	36,553 views	94 subscribers
	2015: 10,852 views 29 new subscribers 61 new videos	2016 (6 months): 7,679 views 19 new subscribers 15 new videos loaded

Highest viewed videos on HIN		
Introduction to plum tree training experiment	Loaded Feb 2015	393 views
Measuring fruit maturity with DA meter	Loaded Feb 2015	369 views
Peach tree trellis experiment for mechanical pruning	Loaded Feb 2015	365 views
Removing unwanted growth points on young pear trees	Loaded July 2015	338 views

Case study: *views of the 'Testing you drip & low-level system' irrigation videos increased by 35% within 5 days of them being linked on the HIN website and included in the HIN e-newsletter.*

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BACK
To what has the HIN done?

HIN Update: delivering comprehensive business intelligence across temperate horticulture

What is is?

The HIN update, collated by Farm Services Horticulture on a quarterly basis, is a unique communication tool within Australia providing up-to-date temperate horticulture industry intelligence and information on a state and national level (with an emphasis on Victorian production).

In line with the critical production periods of spring, summer, autumn and winter, the HIN update comprises timely seasonal crop information such as yield predictions, quality, etc., as well as details of significant industry events and emerging industry issues such as export market issues and the impact of Queensland Fruit Fly.

Target audience

The collated voluntary information is for 'internal use only' and is distributed to over 100 recipients within the participating horticulture industries as well as across Government (DEDJTR).

How it is used

This information has been utilised by the Victorian Government (Primary Industry Policy, Agricultural Research and Biosciences Research, Biosecurity, Agricultural Services and Biosecurity Operations and Trade Victoria) to write briefings, inform potential horticultural produce buyers from overseas and for background information. The voluntary internal distribution list is still growing, with word of mouth being the major driving force and recipients providing positive feedback about the usefulness of the information provided for their work.

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HIN Event Stats

Date	Event	Location	No. researcher/government involved
July 2013	Tour & update of latest research from Agribio, Centre for Agribiosciences (DEDJTR)	Bundoora, Victoria	6 DEDJTR researchers 1 DEDJTR strategic partnership staff
September 2013	Tour of innovative cherry orchard. Tour of pear & stonefruit field laboratories & update of latest research from DEDJTR Tatura	DEDJTR Tatura, Victoria	5 DEDJTR researchers 4 HAL representatives 1 University of Melbourne researcher 2 DEDJTR evaluation specialists 1 strategic partnership staff 1 innovative grower
December 2013	Tour of Sunraysia horticulture – almond cracking plant, water infrastructure on river, carrot packing, pistachio & avocado properties, Australian Citrus Propagation Association, latest research from DPI NSW Dareton & DEDJTR Mildura	Sunraysia, NSW & Victoria	3 DEDJTR researchers 3 DPI NSW researchers 4 innovative businesses
February 2014	Food Safety & Biosecurity presentations & tour of Mornington Peninsula horticulture – vineyard, winery, nursery	Mornington Peninsula, Victoria	2 DEDJTR policy staff 1 DEDJTR biosecurity staff 1 Horticulture Innovation Australia representative 2 innovative businesses 4 Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association executives
June 2014	Evaluation training	Spring St, Melbourne	1 DEDJTR executive
August 2014	Biosecurity awareness	Attwood, Victoria	4 DEDJTR biosecurity staff 2 DEDJTR policy staff
September 2014	Excel training	Attwood, Victoria	
December 2014	Electronic communication tools training & commercialisation & tour of Epping market	Attwood, Victoria	1 DEDJTR farm services staff 1 Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd staff 3 innovative businesses
May 2015	Port of Melbourne tour & seasonal climate outlook presentation	Melbourne	1 DEDJTR farm services staff 4 innovative business
July 2015	Industry Liaison Office training	Attwood, Victoria	4 DEDJTR biosecurity
September 2015	Tour of Gosford horticultural region and update on research from Central Coast Primary Industries Centre, Ourimbah	Gosford district NSW	10 DPI NSW researchers 4 innovative businesses
November 2015	Strategic planning session, export to Asia presentations, project updates (water saving technologies & unmanned aerial vehicle)	Attwood, Victoria	3 DEDJTR researchers 1 DEDJTR policy staff 1 DEDJTR executive 3 DEDJTR trade & investment staff 2 Department of Agriculture & Water Resources market access staff 1 DPI NSW researcher 1 CSIRO researcher
January 2016	Update on latest research from University of Melbourne and updates on partnerships & projects (mapping)	University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria	10 University of Melbourne researchers 1 Food Innovation Australia Ltd staff 1 Carlton Connect staff 1 DEDJTR researcher
April 2016	Tour of SA produce market, Adelaide Hills horticultural region, Plant accelerator facilities and updates on latest research from CSIRO, SARDI and the University of Adelaide	Adelaide and Adelaide Hills, SA	6 CSIRO researchers 13 SARDI researchers 1 University of Adelaide researcher 4 innovative businesses
June 2016	Planning for 2016/17	Teleconference	