



Workshop Participant Information Sheet:

Pest READI - Regionally-Enabled Agroecological Decision Intelligence

The persistent use of chemicals in commercial crops brings with it a range of costs and risks, including health and environmental impacts, rising pest resistance to chemicals, and loss of export markets. Alternative methods of pest management are needed and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) provides a solution. Most Australian growers already use IPM without even realising it — whether it's mulching, planting different crop varieties, managing natural predators, or timing sprays carefully. The Pest READI team is engaging with horticulturists and land managers across the Northern Rivers region to explore digital tools to support innovative IPM practices.

You are invited to take part in a research study to explore development of digital tools for Area-Wide IPM (AW-IPM) in horticulture across the Northern Rivers.

What does participation involve?

Participation in this study will involve taking part in *a workshop that will take about 3 hours*. The workshop will require you to complete an IPM benchmarking exercise, an online survey, and will include presentations and group discussion of pest management digital tools currently under development. The workshop will be conducted by CSIRO researchers with support from Growcom, Macquarie University, and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. The workshop will include the following components:

1. Introduction, testing and discussion of a grower benchmarking survey tool for on-farm IPM
2. Survey to identify pest management strategies, information sharing practices, and digital tool use, among horticultural growers in the Northern Rivers
3. Presentation and discussion of a digital tool currently under development by the Pest READI team to assist on-farm decision making for superior IPM

We will also gather some demographic information about you (e.g. gender, age, education). This information will remain anonymous.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future

relationship with the Pest READI research team or anyone else in the respective organisations involved. If any topic is raised during the workshop that you prefer not to discuss, you are free to decline to participate in that topic or the workshop more generally. Similarly, you are free to leave the workshop at any time. In this case, upon your request, information you have provided in the surveys will be excluded from the study results. If you wish to withdraw from the study after the workshop has finished, simply notify the researchers listed below and your survey data will be destroyed. However, comments you make during group discussions may not be able to be identified and separated from other people's comments, and in this case they may be retained. You may withdraw from this study at any time up until the combining of individual information into the merged results.

How will information and data be stored

The information you provide will be stored on the computer systems of CSIRO and project partner organisations, Macquarie University, Growcom and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Access to your computerised data will be restricted to the project team personnel only and password protected. Written notes will be stored in lockable filing cabinets.

Your individual information will be treated confidentially and will not be disclosed in any publications or presentations resulting from the study.

Risks and benefits

Please be aware that we may be obliged to report disclosures of illegal activity such as illegal dumping of chemicals.

Your participation will be part of our co-design process to ensure our outcomes are driven by the people who are most likely to gain benefits from them. We will not be providing direct benefits to you for attending the workshop. There is a chance the project output may be commercialised in the future, but participants will not benefit or receive financial entitlements from any future commercial interest.

You may be reimbursed for any reasonable travel and parking expenses associated with the participation in the study.

About the project

The *Pest READI* project is being led by Dr Hazel Parry from CSIRO's Agriculture and Food business unit. The study is being funded through the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from CSIRO's 'Catalysing Australia's Biosecurity' initiative and contributions from the Australian Government.

Your privacy

Your personal information is protected by the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (Privacy Act) and CSIRO will handle your

personal information in accordance with this Act. For further information on how CSIRO handles your personal information and our access, correction, and complaints process, please read our Privacy Policy available on our website <https://research.csiro.au/pestreadi/> or by contacting us at privacy@csiro.au.

Photographs

We may take photographs of participants during the workshop to display workshop activities in reporting or promotion of the project (e.g., on the project website). We will ask your consent prior to any photography or filming at the workshop and will ensure your image is only included if you provide your consent.

Ethics clearance and contacts

This study has been approved by CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018). If you have any questions concerning your participation in the study please contact Hazel Parry or Tracey Steinrucken via their contact details below. Alternatively, any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study can be raised with the Executive Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61 7 3833 5693 or by email at csshrec@csiro.au.

For further information on the project:

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Thank you for taking the time to help with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.

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