



Industry Update

Vol.1 No.3



**RD&E
investment
April-June**



**RD&E
investment
2018/19**



**Committed
to RD&E
investment
1 July 2019
onwards**

Upcoming Events

26 Aug

Launch of the Tea Tree Breeding 2019 - 2023 Program, Southern Cross University

11 Sept

Rural Women's Award Gala Dinner, Canberra ACT

17 Oct

ATTIA Field Day and AGM, Casino NSW

Emerging leaders in ag

Applications are now open for the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP). The ARLP is a 15-month leadership development program that takes place over five sessions across Australia and Vietnam.

Over 30 \$50,000 scholarships are available for people working in or wanting to contribute to the development of rural, regional and remote Australia. AgriFutures Australia is pleased to sponsor a ARLP recipient in Course 27 and welcomes applications from the tea tree oil industry.

If you're interested in putting forward an application please speak with AgriFutures Australia Manager, Research Gae Plunkett (0409 091 856).

Apply now rural-leaders.org.au

Read more about past AgriFutures Australia ARLP recipients and the program agrifutures.com.au/ARLP

AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program Advisory Panel

- Michael Flanagan (Chair)
- DeeAnn Prather Seccombe
- Digby Grown
- Phillip Butlin
- Jerry Vanclay
- Gae Plunkett (AgriFutures Australia Manager, Research)



Season update

The tea tree harvest and planting season are currently underway. Recent rainfall in major production areas across NSW have slowed harvest activities dramatically. Harvest is around 30% complete and is expected to continue once this rain event has passed, giving the ground a chance to dry out. Due to dry and cool conditions Australia is anticipating a drop in yield for 2019 of around 35% when compared with the record 1,008 metric tonnes produced in 2018.

PRJ-010780: Tea tree breeding program II (2017-2019)

Research Organisation: Southern Cross University

Researchers: Mervyn Shepherd and Jos Mieog

The growing and production of tea tree oil has matured into a vital, stable industry in Australia over the past 30 years. Developing from a cottage industry relying on hand harvesting in "bush" stands, it is now a fully mechanised plantation-based industry supplying a predominantly international market, worth \$42 million to regional economies in NSW and Qld in 2018.

Tea tree breeding is considered a key strategy for delivering increases in oil yield, quality and pest resistance, towards achieving the first objective in the tea tree RD&E program, "improving supply" (TAYLOR 2018). It has been a key contributor to improvements in the productivity and the sustainability of the industry, where oil yields have increased around three fold since the first program (Tea Tree Breeding Program I) began in 1993.

The Tea Tree Breeding Program II project represents the beginning of a new era in tea tree breeding, with the transition of breeding from a NSW DPI/CSIRO lead program to a Southern Cross University (SCU) managed program commencing in July 2017. Visit agrifutures.com.au/tea-tree-oil for the The Tea Tree Breeding Program II project summary.

Current projects

Project ID	Project Name	Finish	Principal Investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-011678	A Revised Monograph for BP and Ph Eur to align with ISO 4730: 2017	31/10/2019	Larkman, Tony	Tony Larkman
PRJ-009998	Scientific evidence to support TTO within the EU/SCCP cosmetics framework	12/12/2019	Larkman, Tony	ATTIA Ltd
PRJ-011952	Block Chain Traceability for Tea Tree Oil	31/01/2020	Larkman, Tony	ATTIA Ltd
PRJ-011621	Contribution to the CRC-P for Cloning tea tree to produce low methyl eugenol	18/05/2020	Larkman, Tony	ATTIA Ltd
PRJ-011626	Communication of research findings to tea tree oil industry levy payers	1/07/2020	Larkman, Tony	ATTIA Ltd
PRJ-011625	US EPA License requirements for tea tree oil as an industrial biocide	14/08/2020	Bolster, Patricia	P Guinane Pty Ltd
	Survey instrument for TTO usage and effects study	31/12/2020	Hawkins, Jesse	Franklin Institute of Wellness
PRJ-011624	Chiral Testing of Commercial TTO samples for Adulteration	30/12/2021	Larkman, Tony	ATTIA Ltd
PRJ-011309	Tea Tree Breeding 2019 - 2023	15/05/2023	Shepherd, Mervyn	Southern Cross University
PRJ-011618	Entomopathogens for management of key pests of tea tree oil	4/04/2025	Daniel, Rosalie	NSW DPI

About your levy

AgriFutures Australia receives the RD&E levy allocation to invest in line with the Tea Tree Oil Program's objectives as detailed in the Five Year Research & Development Plan. Up to half of program expenditure, including RD&E expenditure, is matched by the Australian Government at up to 0.5% of industry GVP. The Levy is collected and distributed via the Department of Agriculture. For more information, visit agriculture.gov.au



Tea Tree Oil Communications Project

Principal investigator: Tony Larkman

All new industries, including the tea tree oil industry, face a number of challenges including developing product quality, markets and supply chains and managing regulatory barriers and impediments to trade. AgriFutures Australia is committed to communicating the outcomes of the AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program to maintain a dynamic supply chain. Key to this is the Program's investment in the Tea Tree Oil Industry Communications Project 2019-20 (PRJ-011626).

In monitoring and communicating to industry participants this project will ensure that all stakeholders have an understanding of and are a breast of any issues that may impact on the industry as a whole. Through newsletters, extension visits and field days stakeholders will be updated on developments in critical areas such as regulatory affairs that may impact on the tea tree oil supply chain, newly published literature, minor use permits for pesticides, disease outbreaks and QA system developments. By maintaining effective two way communication stakeholders will remain well placed to respond efficiently to any challenges in a proactive manner.