



# Industry Update Vol.1 No.4



**Number of  
projects  
contracted**



**RD&E  
investment  
July -  
September  
2019**



**Total RD&E  
investment  
committed  
from 1  
October  
onwards**

## AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program Advisory Panel

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

AgriFutures Australia is committed to working with industry to deliver the research and development outcomes that meets rural Australia's needs. We work closely with Advisory Panels to decide on research priorities and make investment decisions each year.

Members of AgriFutures Australia's Advisory Panels are identified following an open call process which involves a competitive skills based assessment and/or consultation with key industry bodies and stakeholders.

AgriFutures Australia is dedicated to embracing and promoting cultural, age and gender diversity on all of our Advisory Panels. To learn more about the AgriFutures Australia Advisory Panels and the members of the Tea Tree Oil Advisory Panel please visit [agrifutures.com.au/advisory-panels](http://agrifutures.com.au/advisory-panels)

## Breeding program matching oil quality with market demand

The future viability and profitability of the Australian tea tree industry is being advanced by a \$1.6 million industry agreement to support a breeding program based at Southern Cross University in Lismore.

Known as the 'Tea Tree Breeding Program 2019-2023', this new four-year project will continue to support the advancement of the breeding population. It brings together the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association (ATTIA), AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program and Southern Cross University, and builds on the legacy of desirable traits identified and selected through the previous generations of the Tea Tree Breeding Program.

Continual improvement of the quality and quantity of oil produced in tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) plantations will ensure Australia maintains its market leader status in the face of increasing competition from China, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Until July 2017, the Tea Tree Breeding Program was conducted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the CSIRO at the NSW DPI's Agricultural Institute at Wollongbar. Beginning in 1993, the Program has contributed to major increases in the uniformity and quantity of oil produced from plantations. The Program was originally funded via voluntary industry subscription, bush seed sales, and Commonwealth funds

delivered by NSW DPI and CSIRO, and managed by AgriFutures Australia and ATTIA Ltd. The second era of the Program, led by Southern Cross University, builds on the legacy of this early program and aims to continue to improve the quality and quantity of oil produced in plantations.

To learn more about 'Tea Tree Breeding Program 2019-2023' [agrifutures.com.au/news/breeding-program-matching-oil-quality-with-market-demand/](http://agrifutures.com.au/news/breeding-program-matching-oil-quality-with-market-demand/)



## Current projects

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

## Project spotlight: Scoping study of sustainable weed management in tea tree oil

**Project ID:** PRJ-011789

**Primary investigator:** Associate Professor Paul Kristiansen

**Research organisation:** University of New England

Weeds are a persistent problem in Australia's tea tree oil industry, the potential for a range of weed species to establish and compete with the crop is high. Herbicides have been a mainstay of weed control in tea tree oil production, though their longer-term sustainability is threatened by the relatively small range of registered products, herbicide resistance risk, and the potential to contaminate tea tree oil.

This project aims to gather information about the challenges – and opportunities – of successfully managing weeds in tea tree plantations. Consulting widely with industry, this scoping study will provide key recommendations and findings to inform further strategic weed management research, development and extension investment via the AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program.

The project will include:

- A comprehensive literature review of weed management in Melaleuca production and similar perennial farming systems (including innovative practices).

- In-depth interviews and focus group discussions completed with selected tea tree oil producers and key industry experts in the two main production regions (Northern Rivers, NSW; Atherton Tablelands, Qld).
- Consultation with herbicide companies and the APVMA regarding off-label herbicide options.

If you would like to contribute or would like further information about the project, please contact Michael Coleman: 0437 403 644 [mcolema8@une.edu.au](mailto:mcolema8@une.edu.au) Christine Fyfe: 0401 200 045 [cfyfe3@une.edu.au](mailto:cfyfe3@une.edu.au).

AgriFutures Australia would like to thank ATTIA CEO Tony Larkman for contributing to this project spotlight.