

AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program

The AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program aims to conduct research, development and extension (RD&E) that contributes to the profitability, sustainability and productivity of this levied industry.

The AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program invests in research to develop the industry in growing tea tree, processing and overcoming post farm gate market access barriers in accordance with the five year plan. The program invests in RD&E focused on tea tree breeding, processing and market access.

AgriFutures Australia is committed to new and emerging industries and supports appropriate relevant RD&E. Between 1998 and 2017 AgriFutures Australia funded tea tree oil R&D via AgriFutures™ Emerging Industries Program (formerly New Plants Program).

What do we do

Tea tree oil is extracted from *Melaleuca alternifolia* grown in plantations and distilled via steam injection. Tea tree oil has a range of uses, can be found in cosmetics, personal health care and animal care products, and is recognised by consumers and manufacturers for its effectiveness.

Tea tree is tolerant of coastal acid sulphate soils and can be grown on inland cropping country. Most plantations are located in the coastal region of northern New South Wales and the Atherton Tablelands of Queensland.

Our investment in the tea tree breeding program over the past 25 years has resulted in the near doubling of plantation yield. These investments have also delivered efficiencies in harvesting, distillation, storage and marketable oil benefits.

Key challenges for the Australian tea tree oil industry is to continue to improve profitability and increase demand. Reducing costs of production is also important to maintaining Australia's competitive advantage. As price increases and demand continues to grow, new plantings in China have potential to impact on commercial competitiveness of Australian-grown oil.

About your levy

In 2016 Australian tea tree oil growers voted to establish a compulsory levy to fund RD&E. The levy is calculated at 25c per kilogram of tea tree oil produced.

In July 2017, with the introduction of a grower-led compulsory levy, the Australian tea tree oil industry emerged as a mature industry. AgriFutures Australia was entrusted to manage the RD&E investment.

Half of AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program expenditure, minus levy collection costs, is matched by the Australian Government at up to 0.5% of the industry GVP.

Program investment

The AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Advisory Panel consists of growers, scientists and industry experts. The Advisory Panel are responsible for determining RD&E priorities and making program investment recommendations in accordance with the Tea Tree Oil Program RD&E Plan 2018–2022. The five year plan is focused on:

1. Improving supply
2. Increasing demand
3. Extension, sustainability and human capital

Contact

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AgriFutures™ Tea Tree Oil Program Advisory Panel

AgriFutures Australia is committed to working with industry to deliver research and development outcomes. The Advisory Panel consists of industry experts who meet regularly to determine research, development and extension priorities and make program investment recommendations. Panel members are appointed on three-year terms.



Michael Flanagan (Chair) Tea tree oil producer, northern NSW

Michael has been a tea tree oil producer for 20 years in northern NSW and is a qualified accountant with more than 40 years professional standing. Prior to professional retirement he owned and operated a large regional NSW accounting, business advisory, taxation and financial planning practice. He worked at a senior level with the Australian Taxation Office in Canberra and overseas as an international taxation consultant. Industry involvement has included board member and national treasurer of the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association.

Phillip Butlin Main Camp Natural Extracts

Phillip is the Managing Director of Main Camp Natural Extracts (MCNE), the world's largest tea tree oil producer with operations across 10 farms in NSW. Prior to establishing MCNE, Phillip was an executive and director of Great Southern Limited, an ASX listed managed investment scheme business. Phillip has worked at Macquarie Bank in Sydney and Hong Kong in the bank's equity capital market division and prior to Macquarie Bank worked for the international accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, in London and Sydney. Phillip has been a qualified accountant for over 30 years; he is a board member and president of the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association.

Digby Growns Kings Oark and Botanic Garden

Digby is the Senior Plant Breeder at Kings Park and Botanic Garden. He manages programs in the breeding and development of Anigozanthos, Boronia, Chamelaucium, Corymbia, Grevillea, Leptospermum and Scaevola. He has worked for many years on the development of Australian native plants for horticulture, and is responsible for the release of over 40 new varieties of native plants including the hybrid Chamelaucium 'Pearlflower' series and Grevillea 'RSL Spirit of ANZAC'. He leads research into new technology developments in plant tissue culture, biotechnology and plant breeding. Digby has a Bachelor of Horticultural Science (Honours).

Dee-Ann Seccombe Prather Down Under Enterprises International Pty Ltd

Dee-Ann is the founder and Managing Director of Down Under Enterprises International Pty Ltd., an international wholesale distributor of Australian tea tree oil and essential oils. With an expanding product portfolio, the business has a growing customer base in Asia and North America. Dee-Ann is a committee member of the Essential Oils Association of Australia and member of the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association. Career highlights include winning the 2015 Premier's NSW Export Award for Women in International Business and Premier's NSW Export Awards for Agribusiness, Highly Commended in 2016. Dee-Ann has a Master of Commerce from the University of NSW and Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney.

Jerome (Jerry) Vanclay Southern Cross University

Jerry's career is tied to the tree plantation and forestry industries and he has a long involvement in systems thinking for industry and community development. As Dean of Science at Southern Cross University, Jerry regularly meets with tea tree growers and has a strong commitment to addressing industry challenges through innovation. Jerry has worked as an Assistant Forester, Mensurationist, Principal Scientist, Professor of Sustainable Forestry and is currently Head of School, School of Environment, Science and Engineering at Southern Cross University. Jerry is a Fellow of the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Royal Society of NSW, he is a board member for the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and has a Doctor of Science (Forestry) from the University of Queensland.

Professor Gavin Ash University of Southern Queensland

Dr Gavin Ash is a Professor of Plant Pathology and Director of the Centre for Crop Health at the University of Southern Queensland. Dr Ash received his PhD from the University of New England in Armidale working on the epidemiology and crop losses associated with stripe rust of wheat. He then worked as a lecturer in plant pathology at Charles Sturt University where he became a full professor in 2011 and Head of School of Agricultural and Wine Sciences in 2015. He currently manages the Centre for Crop Health at USQ.



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