

Organic Horticulture Research, Development & Innovation Strategy 2026-2035

Purpose

Double the VALUE & IMPACT of the Australian Certified Organic Horticulture Sector by 2035. Invest in research, development and innovation to unlock supply and new markets; increase productivity and efficiency; scale adoption and strengthen market integrity; and improve profitability and positive impact for certified organic growers.

Principles

- Supply Resilience
- Evidence-Based
- Consumer-Centric
- Targeted Strategic Investment
- National Collaboration

Impact

- Enhanced Profitability
- De-risk Transition to Organic
- Market Differentiation
- Cooperative Sector ecosystem
- Technological Innovation
- Wider Benefit for Horticulture

Implementation

- Collective Governance: strategy owned by Australian Certified Organic Horticulture sector
- Targeted Co-investments
- Strategic International Collaborations
- Staged Initiatives
- Training & Education
- Accelerate wider transition to low inputs

UNIQUE DRIVERS: Certified Organic Australian Horticulture RD&I

Credentialed production and supply chain free of synthetic chemicals creates urgency for innovation, and research priorities shared with conventional

- Improved productivity through automation
- Evidence based biological inputs
- Organic-compliant biosecurity and unique research requirements and outcomes for organic
- Strict low input, low impact bounded innovation
- Protect market trust and value (nutrition, residue reduction, traceability, water quality, whole system impacts, biodiversity)
- Enhanced support for entry and transitioning growers whilst improving knowledge development for all growers

OPPORTUNITY COST: If NO Investment in Organic Hort RD&I

- Certified Organic market growth signals unable to be realised
- Growing demand for Certified Organic met by imports
- Market diversity reduced through access
- Advancement of low input low impact farming options slowed
- Diversity in farming system and supply chains vulnerable

Investment priorities

The organic value proposition

- Consumer & Market Intelligence
- Evidence-Base for Organic Claims
- Reduce Waste
- Improve continuity of Supply
- Global Premium Profile

IMPACT:
Evidence-based Growth & Impact

Cooperative innovation

- National Knowledge Hub
- Skills & Workforce Agility
- Reduce Waste
- Seamless Transition to Certified Organic
- Improve Compliance Processes

IMPACT:
Knowledge at Scale

Technical innovation

- Biological Input Efficiency
- Organic Compatible Biosecurity
- Traceability & Packaging alternatives

IMPACT:
Increased Supply Efficiency

