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AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM GRANT

MANAGING BIOSECURITY RISKS



Biosecurity incursions from pests, diseases and weeds can significantly impact agricultural trade, the environment and communities, leading to great cost if not devastation for individual producers and entire industries. The Managing Biosecurity Risks project worked with high value industry and producers in southern NSW to find ways to increase the speed of tracking possible vectors to reduce, halt or eradicate biosecurity threats.

Investment

The total cash investment for the project was \$390,000 from the Australian Government's Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program Grant, \$46,000 from NSW DPI and in-kind contributions from other partners, stakeholders and participants valued at over \$833,000.

Outcomes

- Increased attention on managing on-farm biosecurity practices, with greater awareness of biosecurity risk and requirements, and greater adoption of biosecurity practices.
- A greater base for ongoing collaboration between stakeholders to build on project outputs and maximise effectiveness of biosecurity risk management and response.

- The design of a new framework to strengthen biosecurity preparedness regionally. A mechanism that uses local knowledge to develop and implement biosecurity management practices.
- Development of a reform initiative to enhance regional community and supply chain participation in biosecurity awareness and preparedness.

Next steps

The project has successfully demonstrated the potential of technology based solutions like Track and Trace to increase on-farm biosecurity and incursion management. It also highlighted the need for further work to be done to improve its effectiveness and maximise its value in managing incursions with the next step being to gain widespread adoption and use of the tool across the industry.

The Southern NSW Innovation Hub will continue to take carriage of investigating investment opportunities to further progress the Southern NSW Strategic Investment Framework. In particular, the Hub will focus on investment in regional solutions to support cohesive regional biosecurity preparedness and participation by regional communities and industries. The regional profiling framework has the potential to be applied across industries and nationwide.

The Hub welcomes all conversations with investors eager to see regional communities and supply chains actively engaged and participating in local biosecurity preparedness.

Stakeholder response

Overall, participants in the track and trace trial and simulation exercise responded positively to their experience, reporting an increased awareness and knowledge of practices to manage on-farm biosecurity risks and the potential of track and trace technology to address biosecurity needs and outbreaks.

Participants also acknowledged the industry-initiated, co-design approach that engaged producers from the outset as valuable to achieving improved outcomes and benefits for the wider community.

Specifically, participants reported:



Increased attention to managing on-farm biosecurity practices, and awareness of biosecurity risk and requirements.



Strengthened relationships and tracing technology insights for the wine industry.



Improved biosecurity preparedness and more biosecurity practices in place on-farm.



Highly successful collaboration and free flowing dialogue between industry, government and growers.



Increased positive opinion and overwhelming support for the use of track and trace types of technology in managing biosecurity.



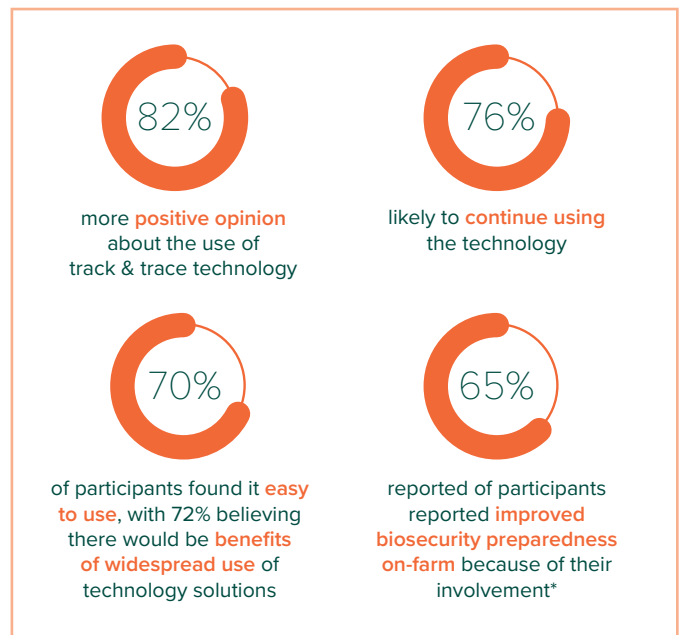
Support for continued engagement from the national Biosecurity Preparedness Framework Investment Roundtable.

Aims

- Test the effectiveness of track and trace technology to improve industry readiness for and response to biosecurity threats, including how effectively a technology-based solution can facilitate best practice on-farm biosecurity.
- Management of biosecurity as a shared responsibility across producers, industry and community through awareness and understanding of biosecurity and better preparedness for region-wide response.
- Build solutions for coordinating biosecurity preparedness and prevention including farmer, community and supply chain involvement in southern NSW, identifying and describing key roles necessary for this coordinated preparedness effort and estimated investment required for such a framework.

Outputs

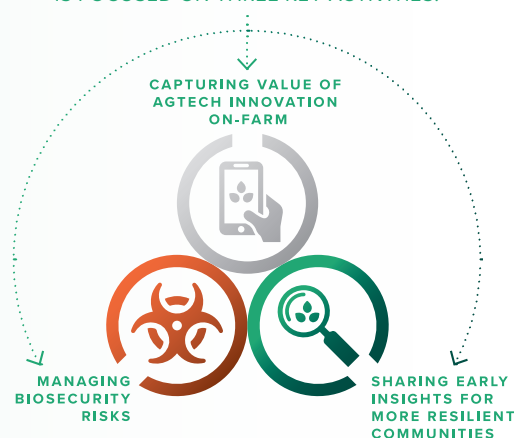
1. Biosecurity Investment Framework – a strategic road map to engage regions in biosecurity preparedness and prevention
2. NSW Wine Track & Trace Tool Proof of Concept Pilot with industry
3. Documented reports for track and trace testing and wine grapes simulation exercise
4. A participation framework for profiling regional preparedness to biosecurity threats for the southern NSW region.



* Vineyard Walks and Track & Trace Pilot Project Update workshops (Feb 23)

Managing Biosecurity Risks is one of three agricultural innovation investment areas. The project is a joint initiative with the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and forms part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program.

THE
AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM
IS FOCUSED ON THREE KEY ACTIVITIES:



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