

Project overview **2023**

Active projects currently delivered by ABGC

Supply Chain Engagement

Key objectives:

Develop and organise activities involving key supply chain stakeholders to build interest, excitement, and an understanding of the Banana industry; ultimately to increase the demand and consumption of fresh Australian Bananas.

Start and end date:

Current contract 1 year ending September with extension to 2025

Funding Body:

Hort Innovation

Delivered by:

Andrew Burns

Biosecurity and Sustainability in the banana industry

Key objectives:

Ensure the industry is well regarded, respected and recognised for its attitude and positive actions in relation to biosecurity and sustainability

Banana-related strategic biosecurity and environmental projects are aligned to leverage greater benefits for banana growers and funding bodies.

Policies and programs are appropriate to industry needs and issues and enable growers to respond effectively to biosecurity and sustainability challenges

Start and end date:

September 2020 to September 2023

Funding Body:

Hort Innovation

Delivered by:

Michelle McKinlay

Best Management Practice (BMP) Phase 3

Key objectives:

Support growers in Reef Catchments to make sustained improvement to the practices on their farm to achieve water quality and productivity benefits. The project includes a financial assistance grant program, in which growers can access funds through a co-contribution model to undertake projects, as per guidelines, that reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and/or help them comply with the Reef Regulations.

Start and end date:

January 2023 – June 2026

Funding Body:

Office of the Great Barrier Reef & World Heritage (OGBR&WH) - Queensland Government

Delivered by:

Amelia Foster, Kathryn Dryden & Phillip Spokes

Reef Smart Farming

Key objectives:

Support 30 growers in the Tully and Johnstone catchments to develop Nutrient Management Plans to improve their production and reduce their input costs.

Start and end date:

July 2022- June 2024

Funding Body:

Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) via Canegrowers Innisfail

Delivered by:

Molly Blake

Ground Cover Measurement

Key objectives:

Develop a methodology, and undertake drone based surveys of banana farms to better measure inter-row ground cover, including practice and attribute surveys. This will help the industry document the great job growers are doing in reducing sediment loss from their farms.

Start and end date:

2022 - Ongoing

Funding Body:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries - Queensland Government

Delivered by:

Molly Blake

● Annual Grower Survey of farm inputs (P2R survey)

Key objectives:

Gather information, via approximately 30 grower surveys, to ensure that government models have up to date information about banana grower practices in terms of fertiliser and pesticide usage. This helps to improve the understanding about the potential environmental impact of banana farming and that the vast majority of banana growers are low users of inputs. The information provided contains no information that can identify the grower.

Start and end date:

Annually May - June

Funding Body:

Terrain NRM with funding from the Queensland Government.

Delivered by:

Amelia Foster, Kathryn Dryden, Phillip Spokes & Molly Blake

● R&D Coordination

Key objectives:

The overall objectives of the 'Banana Industry R&D Coordination' project are collaborate with others to strategically:

- lead and coordinate R&D delivery for the Australian banana industry
- integrate banana R&D, extension and communication investments
- continue to raise the relevance and quality R&D to the industry
- increase the pace and impact of banana R&D
- maximise the collective value of industry R&D Investments.

Start and end date:

2 Aug 2021 - 2 Aug 2026

Funding body:

Hort Innovation

Delivered by:

Rosie Godwin

● Multi-pest surveillance, grower education to manage banana pests & diseases

Key objectives:

Continued control, containment and monitoring for, serious endemic banana pests and diseases such as Banana Bunch Top Virus and Leaf spot disease and any new incursions.

Improved grower and industry knowledge on surveillance and monitoring methods, identification and management of key pests and diseases of banana.

Enhanced industry capability and capacity in large scale surveillance.

Knowledge and tools developed for detection of multiple high priority banana pests and diseases and evidence of initial adoption of these tools.

The status of priority pests and diseases across major banana production regions monitored and understood by industry, supporting industry preparedness to manage major banana pests and diseases.

Start and end date:

25 March 2022 – 15 March 2025

Funding body:

Hort Innovation

Delivered by:

Grant Telford, Carena Rose, Carl Rickson

BBTV Field staff:

Wayne Shoobridge, Arardeep Singh, Josh Chapman, Lachlan Hohnberg, Samantha Stringer, Ken English

● Management of 1IP and 2SP

Key objectives:

Manage compliance to any quarantine requirements and reporting associated with Panama Tropical Race 4 as dictated by relevant legislation.

- Maintain infrastructure on-site including sheds, houses, machinery, fences and services such as Ergon Energy
- Control weeds as appropriate and regrowth of bananas
- Liaise with neighbours to ensure their ongoing goodwill and cooperation.

Start and end date:

2016 – Ongoing

Funding Body:

Plant Health Australia

Delivered by:

Phil Neibling

Banana Industry Communications

Key objectives:

To increase engagement with industry to improve industry awareness and adoption of appropriate R&D, best management practices and communicate other industry developments to banana growers nationally. It will do this by further enhancing its existing national communications platform for the banana industry by brokering information and developing content that keeps growers informed and aware of the latest R&D and marketing. In doing so, the program will contribute to maintaining a profitable and sustainable Australian banana industry.

Start and end date:
2022 - 2027

Funding Body:
Hort Innovation

Delivered by:
Sonia Campbell, Amy Spear

Panama TR4 Transition

Key objectives:

To jointly govern and deliver the program with Biosecurity Queensland to control and contain Panama TR4.












Start and end date:
2020 – 2023*

Funding body:
Plant Health Australia & Queensland Government








Delivered by:
Geoff Wilson, Jennifer McKee, Skye Orsmond

*1 July 2023 – 2027 ABGC TR4 Containment Program commences, funded by PHA

Key projects

-  Annual Grower Survey of farm inputs (P2R survey)
-  Best Management Practice (BMP) Phase 3
-  Ground Cover Measurement
-  Biosecurity and Sustainability in the banana industry
-  Reef Smart Farming
-  Banana Industry Communications
-  Management of 1IP and 2SP
-  Multi-pest surveillance and grower education to manage banana pests and diseases
-  R&D Coordination
-  Panama TR4 Transition
-  Supply Chain Engagement

Funding Body

-  Hort Innovation
-  Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage (OGBR&WH)
-  Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) via Canegrowers Innisfail
-  Terrain NRM with funding from the Queensland Government
-  Plant Health Australia
-  Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
-  ABGC Membership Fees