

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Agriculture and Water

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Projects funded through the Tasmanian Government's Agricultural Innovation Fund (AIF) and Agricultural Development Fund (ADF)

Funding round	Fund	Status	Title	Description	Lead organisation	Other partners	Amount	Co-funding
R1	AIF	Complete	Expanding Crop Protection Options for Control of Blueberry Rust	This project will evaluate a range of crop protectants to help control blueberry rust.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Staphyt Pty Ltd, NSW Department of Primary Industry	\$203,110	
R1	AIF	Ongoing	On-farm adoption of low emissions feed technologies for improved profitability of the Tasmanian livestock sector	This project will evaluate the use of biochar to deliver Asparagopsis seaweed at a commercial scale to livestock in Tasmania and assess the combined impact of biochar and Asparagopsis on greenhouse gas reduction, productivity gains, animal health and soil carbon.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Meat and Livestock Australia, Sea Forest, Fonterra, Annadale Farm, Fosterville Pastoral, Beaufront Farm	\$487,017	\$2,085,475
R1	AIF	Ongoing	Beating smoke taint with sparkling wine – Climate Change Adaptation for the Tasmanian wine industry	This project will investigate the production of sparkling wine from smoke-affected wine grapes as a mitigation strategy. The outputs will provide winemakers with the knowledge to help them develop risk management strategies against the impacts of climate change.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Wine Tasmania	\$217,680	\$132,357
R1	AIF	Ongoing	Development of a decision support systems for management of potato diseases and estimating impact of changing climates	This project will develop a tool that will allow the potato industry to predict and control disease more effectively. This will increase productivity and profitability of the industry, while decreasing food waste, pesticide use and environmental impacts. It will also provide a valuable tool for modelling the impact of future climate change.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Simplot Australia	\$499,725	\$296,629
R1	AIF	Ongoing	New on-farm strategies for the prevention and control of	This project will provide the blueberry industry with practical information and precision tools to manage blueberry rust through the evaluation of pathogen survival over winter and defoliation as a potential control measure.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Fruit Growers Tasmania, Mountainvale Berries, Hillwood Berries, Stuart	\$500,988	\$201,873

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			blueberry rust in Tasmania			Griggs Blueberries, Southern Cross University		
R1	ADF	Ongoing	Reuse and recycling of hydroponic substrate to enable the growth of high value agricultural production in Tasmania	This project will reduce reliance on imports of coir, an important substrate for horticultural industries, by evaluating the re-use of spent coir and experimenting with local agricultural by-products. This will help to promote a robust circular economy for Tasmanian agricultural businesses.	Fruit Growers Tasmania	RMCG, Costa Exchange, Hillwood Berries, Tasmanian Berries	\$496,049	\$1,839,695
R1	ADF	Ongoing	Optimising calf raising for dairy beef production in Tasmania	This project will determine the best approach for raising surplus dairy calves for dairy beef production. It will examine different rearing methods to meet processor requirements and will also study the financial cost-benefit of dairy beef production and impacts on animal health and welfare.	Pinion Advisory	Tascor Agri	\$481,860	\$346,598
R1	ADF	Complete	Development of the hoverfly, <i>Eristalis tenax</i> , as a complementary managed pollinator for Tasmanian cropping systems	This project will develop commercial rearing and deployment protocols for hoverflies as a complementary pollinator for pollination-limited crops. This will help future-proof Tasmanian industries by diversifying managed pollinators, drive industry expansion, improve yields and profitability in some crops, and provide a greater understanding of conditions promoting pollinator retention in crops.	seedPurity	Bejo Australia, South Pacific Seeds, Tasmanian Pollination Services	\$388,251	\$333,287
R1	ADF	Complete	Production of an Asparagopsis pellet that will be suitable for farmers to integrate into their feeding systems	This project will seek to develop a commercial formulation for a seaweed-based feed supplement that can be fed to cattle and sheep to reduce their methane emissions and deliver productivity gains.	Sea Forest	Tasmanian Stockfeed Services, Pure Foods Milling, Analytical Services Tasmania, Fonterra, Kingston Farm, Annadale Farm, Tas Ag Co	\$541,980	\$676,980
R2	AIF	Ongoing	Fast-tracking solutions for reliable and climate-responsive wine grape production	This project will help improve business decisions about botrytis management in vineyard.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Wine Tasmania, Nufarm, Australian Wine Research Institute	\$429,538	\$550,998

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R2	ADF*	Ongoing	Microbes against climate change: A low-cost electronic nose to support soil health and resilience via soil carbon sequestration	This project will allow farmers to monitor the microbial communities in soils to assist with better soil management.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Borlaug Technologies, Tas Farm Innovation Hub	\$96,278	\$88,212
R2	AIF*	Ongoing	Microbes against climate change: A low-cost electronic nose to support soil health and resilience via soil carbon sequestration	This project will allow farmers to monitor the microbial communities in soils to assist with better soil management.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Borlaug Technologies, Tas Farm Innovation Hub	\$399,573	\$376,062
R2	ADF	Ongoing	Control of weed poppies in opium poppy production	This project will provide poppy growers with tools to reduce the impact of weed poppies on crop yields.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Poppy Growers Tasmania, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Extractas Bioscience	\$251,316	\$263,136
R2	ADF	Ongoing	Rapid Detection of Pyrethrum Pathogens for Disease Management	This project will develop a pathogen test to monitor when disease control is required in pyrethrum crops.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Botanical Resources Australia	\$257,796	\$456,737
R2	ADF	Ongoing	Virtual Fencing: A game changer for pasture-based livestock systems	This project will evaluate the effectiveness of virtual fencing technology in commercial dairy systems for improving productivity and animal health and welfare.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Halter Pty Ltd, Fonterra, Circular Head Farms, MacDonald Dairies, Compass Agribusiness	\$486,470	\$1,657,653
2023/24 AIF extension	AIF	Ongoing	Growing value from irrigation for Tasmanian agriculture	This three-year program will document the economic value derived from the Tasmanian state government's investment in irrigation infrastructure for the Tasmanian agriculture sector.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture	Tasmanian Irrigation, TasWater, NRM North, NRM Cradle Coast, Tasmanian Farmers Graziers Association	\$1,600,225	\$1,813,321

Funding round	Fund	Status	Title	Description	Lead organisation	Other partners	Amount	Co-funding
2023/24 AIF extension	AIF	Ongoing	Alternative Inputs: Zero Net Emissions Horticulture Demonstration Farm	This project will establish an Australian-first Zero Net Emissions Horticulture Demonstration farm to showcase commercially adaptable alternative strategies that reduce inputs and emissions in horticultural production.	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture		\$461,730	\$226,239

* Microbes against climate change: A low-cost electronic nose to support soil health and resilience via soil carbon sequestration is a joint project between the ADF and AIF.