The National Development Program (NDP) is a 4-year program designed to raise awareness of cherry research and development and build capacity in the Australian cherry industry. The program is industry-driven and is therefore relevant, targeted, and responsive. Direction of the program is determined through regular consultation and input from growers, through state representatives. Both regional and national priorities are set each year, which are then addressed by the program through appropriate activities.

Activities to date

Activities have included field days, formal and informal presentations, training, and workshops. Activities have occurred in 5 states (NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, and WA) in 5 states. Extension of R&D has focused on fruit quality, and workshops and outputs (support materials) have focused on the national priority of export-readiness and market access.

R&D presentations to date have covered the following topics: winter chill and dormancy, brown rot, variety evaluation, trends in international R&D, preparing for rain, best practice post-harvest management, and optimising fruit quality.

Fruit quality was the focus of a national tour with Prof. Lynn Long, from Oregon State University, and Marlene Long, a post-harvest quality control technician. The tour covered pruning trees on productive and standard rootstocks, and presented results from variety, rootstock, and training interactions.

The NDP has worked closely with Cherry Growers Australia and contributed to the cherry industry Biosecurity Management Programme, the Export Manual, crop monitoring for export training workshops, provision of support materials, and the 2014 IPDM calendar.

State representatives

To find out more about the NDP please contact your state representative or your state association:

NSW: Anne Mooney, Tom Eastlake
VIC: Alison Jones
TAS: Phil Pyke
SA: Darren Graetz, Andrew Flavell

For more information please contact
National Co-ordinator
Dr Penny Measham
Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Telephone +61 3 6226 1870
Penelope.Measham@utas.edu.au

This project has been funded by HIA using the cherry industry levy and matched funds from the Australian Government.

Horticulture Innovation Australia

University of Tasmania

TIA is a joint venture between the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government