



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Sustainable Vegetable Systems

Quarterly Report - Programme Governance Group

Quarter 1, July – August 2020

Contract Agreement Number: 21859



1. QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARY

Sustainable Vegetable Systems

1.1 Summary of progress during this quarter

Workstream 1 – Controlled experimentation to quantify nitrate leaching

- Initiated a literature review
- Plant & Food Research (PFR) has focused resources and activity on setting up the trials for the coming year
- Significant scoping of the activity, which has included consulting with the Technical Working Group (TWG) on crop rotations and practices
- PFR Lincoln wheat is currently being grown and monitored. To be followed by broccoli or cover crop (rye grass/oats)
- TWG suggested rotations are currently being reviewed by PFR against the science requirements and budgets

Workstream 2 – Regional on farm monitoring

- Growers at the 9 regional monitoring sites have all been engaged with and are currently working through site selection
- The TWG has been meeting weekly for an hour to refine the soil and plant sampling protocols. PFR scientists have been involved to ensure data collection is suitable for use in Workstream 3

Workstream 3 – Farmer facing tool(s)

- The modelling community of practice is in development. This will be one of the key project outputs as it looks to increase the industries nutrient modelling capabilities. A group of professionals with modelling qualifications will workshop vegetable growing simulations. Knowledge will be built from this hands-on process that can be used directly in Overseer or other nutrient budgeting tools
- A leadership group has been established. In conjunction with PFR a Subject Matter Expert is being approached to support this community of modellers and to do some initial modelling to help identify modelling gaps
- There have been initial discussions with Overseer and other nutrient projects (Ravensdown & Ballance) to ensure awareness and alignment of work programmes

Workstream 4 – Developing a change landscape

- PFR social scientist Toni White has been engaged by the Workstream 4 management team. She will begin scoping the project following the WS4 workshop on 4th November 2020
- A dissemination leadership team has been established. Several video conference meetings have been held. The next meeting is face to face on the 4th November with the wider Workstream 3 & 4 team

- Activities have focused on a soft project launch including in rural papers, industry websites and radio interviews. A formal launch with Hon Damien O'Connor Minister of Agriculture on the 20th August in Lincoln was cancelled due to COVID-19
- PNZ and HortNZ have a process for capturing media activity. A log has been started of both SVS specific and nutrient related media coverage

1.2 Key highlights and achievements

- The project is established, signed off and underway!
- PFR and other project team members met on the 11th August in Lincoln to establish a project wide understanding amongst the team members and align direction and purpose
- The TWG was established and has met regularly through video conference calls. This group ensures a close connection between the science and grower practice
- Growers at the 9 regional monitoring sites have all been engaged with and are currently working through site selection

1.3 Collaboration with other programmes (*optional*)

- It has been identified that grower workshops should present multiple research trials/topics. SVS has started a calendar of events to try and align these workshops where possible
- Discussions and direct involvement in SVS by LandWISE and their Future Proofing Vegetable Production project
- Rural Professional Fund - Measuring real time nitrogen losses in HB vegetable production (Gravensdown). Involvement through Andrew - discussions and observation of results
- A Lighter Touch. Discussions. Although no direct connection between the research, most likely to collaborate on workshop timing and formats
- NZGAP – Farm Environment Plans and their GMPs and BMPs linked to research and grower practice.

1.4 Upcoming

- PFR sites established in Lincoln and Hawke's Bay and trials will begin in Lincoln. Literature review to be completed
- Regional monitoring will continue in Canterbury and begin in the other regions. This will include visits by PFR staff to each of the 9 sites to engage with those doing the regional monitoring and the respective growers
- Review of current representation of crops in Overseer
- Modelling leadership workshop via video conference on the 30th October
- Workstream 4 Leadership workshop in Wellington on the 4th November
- First PGG meeting on the 19th November in Wellington

10. APPENDIX

Any additional registers (e.g. communications, intellectual property), discussion papers and more detailed information (e.g. detailed work plans, budgets).

10.1 Communications

WS4 Objective 2

A dissemination leadership team has been established. Several video conference meetings have been held. The next meeting is face to face on the 4th November with the wider Workstream 3 & 4 team.

This first workshop will be held amongst the project delivery participants in Wellington. Participants include PFR, PNZ, HortNZ, and external parties such as NZGAP and LandWISE who have concurrently running work with nutrient elements. Workstream 3 modelling is the main delivery element that growers will see, hence the importance of insuring these two workstreams are well connected. Presentations at this workshop include workstream 3 & 4 overviews, PFR's social science element, concurrent projects, Workstream 3 modelling, and beginning the discussion on what SVS's dissemination programme looks like and its alignment with Product Group activities.

Activities have focused on a soft project launch including in rural papers, industry websites and radio interviews. A formal launch with Hon Damien O'Connor Minister of Agriculture on the 20th August in Lincoln was postponed due to COVID-19.

PNZ and HortNZ have a process for capturing media activity. A log has been started of both SVS specific and nutrient related media coverage.

