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PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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Meeting the Regulation: Organic Seed & Seedling Production in Australia

INTRODUCTION

To maintain market access for Australian organic produce Australia's National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce (NSOBDP) required that from January 1, 2004 all certified growers source their planting material from certified sources. The move came in response to Article 6(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No.2092/91 which required the same change in production standards from EEC producers. Prior to this, producers were exempted under Derogation which permitted the use of non-organic seed in organic production, provided farmers were unable to find the organic seed they required locally. However, as the deadline for the removal of Derogation loomed and with limited supplies of organic planting material available, it became obvious to the regulators of organic standards that the complete removal of Derogation would place organic farmers at a distinct disadvantage. In August 2003, EU regulators moved to extend Derogation under a new Regulation (Council Regulation EEC No.1452/2003). To be enforced from January 1 2004, the new EU Regulation extended Derogation indefinitely (with review in 2006), but placed greater restrictions on its use.

In recognition of the need for Australian organic producers to become familiar with these changes the organic industry in conjunction with Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) commissioned a project to facilitate a process which would lead to the uptake of the new production standard for certified organic vegetable seed and seedlings across Australia's horticulture sector. Rather than have these changes imposed unilaterally the organic vegetable industry's regulators invited production, supply and processing participants meet and consult to resolve the issues of supply & demand and examine the need for regulation.

METHODOLOGY

To meet these objectives a number of activities were undertaken:

- *Raising industry awareness.* Six half-day workshops were held from September 1-8, 2003 in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Launceston, Adelaide and Perth.
- *Identifying supply and demand for organic vegetable seed and seedlings.* A survey was conducted to examine the Australian organic vegetable industries' ability to implement the required changes and to identify the main issues influencing supply and demand of organically produced seed and seedlings.
- *Construction of a National database of organic vegetable seed and seedling producers.* Direct participation and information extraction from existing Regulator databases were explored as a means to create an essential industry tool.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RAISING INDUSTRY AWARENESS

Workshop participants were largely enthusiastic about the adoption of the seed/seedling Regulation, considering business development opportunities to be a positive spin-off. Uncertainty regarding supply and demand was inhibiting production; however, participants felt that the development of a comprehensive database of seed/seedling and input suppliers and the provision of technical material outlining production requirements and quality control procedures should increase producer and investor confidence. Workshop participants identified the need for consistency in the interpretation and implementation of the Derogation. It was agreed that clarification should be sought from the EU regarding interpretation and compliance.

MATCHING SUPPLY & DEMAND FOR ORGANIC VEGETABLE SEED & SEEDLINGS

The survey highlighted a shortfall in specific varieties of organic material could significantly disadvantage Australian organic producers, particularly those supplying the supermarket trade or contemplating export production. A number of constraints affecting supply and demand of organic vegetable seed and seedlings were identified.

The nature and size of the organic vegetable industry. The survey identified that the Australian organic vegetable sector was largely dominated by a large number of smaller production units (less than 2Ha) growing a diverse range of crops. Typically, these producers used a combination of both seed and seedlings in their production. Larger producers mostly sourced their seed and seedlings from larger commercial companies who produced organic products as a sideline.

The survey suggested that the majority of organic vegetable producers used less than 5,000 seedlings / annum. Many obtained their supplies of organic seed from specialist suppliers such as seed saver and heritage (heirloom)-type seed companies. Larger producers generally sourced their seed from larger commercial seed suppliers that traded in conventional and organic lines. Due to the irregularity and small size of orders, commercial seedling suppliers were generally unwilling to meet the demands of these producers. Consequently, many smaller organic vegetable producers were having difficulty purchasing a regular supply and believed that in the future they would place a greater emphasis on on-farm production of seedlings.

Lack of reliable industry statistics. The lack of, or confidentiality of, data pertaining to the production and supply of organic seed and seedlings hampered the ability to determine accurate supply and demand figures. Similar difficulties in obtaining information regarding seed availability in Europe and the rest of the world have been reported by overseas researchers (Cook, A., 2000).

Industry uncertainty regarding the Regulation and Derogation. As a matter of urgency, it is essential that a clear, concise, and harmonised interpretation of the Rule and derogation be negotiated between AQIS (as the Competent Authority) and Organic Certifying Organisations. Many suppliers of organic seed or seedlings believe that whilst Derogation exists within the Regulation, and there was a lack of a clear, consistent, and agreed position of the interpretation of the Derogation amongst organic certifiers, there would be greater risks associated with supplying this market. Furthermore, Organic vegetable producers feared that a lack of competition in the market place (not enough seed/seedling suppliers) would lead to a lack of choice in the marketplace which may lead to monopoly trading, and inflated prices for organic seed and seedlings. This view was supported during the recent First World Conference on Organic Seed with “the different regulations for organic seed use, different country interpretations of the EU regulation and derogations resulting in a decreased industry interest in investing in organic seed. The seed industry called for a harmonisation of the many certification schemes in existence, especially with reference to the question of Derogation” (FAO, 2004).

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Supply pathways for organic seed in Australia. The availability of good quality organic seed will be paramount for a smooth transition of the implementation of the Regulation in Australia. During the First World Conference on Organic Seed (FAO, 2004) there was broad agreement that the provision of good quality seed remains a prerequisite and that good cultivation practices, appropriate varieties and plant hygiene are the foundation of all seed production. Organic seed supplies in Australia are currently sourced through three major channels:

i. Conventional' suppliers of organic and non-chemically treated seed. This sector includes imported organic and non-chemically treated seed largely from the European Union and USA. A small number of 'local' organic producers are also contracted to produce seed. Imported organic vegetable seed is available in larger 'commercial' quantities and quality is often more consistent than current 'local' supplies, due to strict requirements for testing under bi-lateral trade arrangements with the Australian Federal Government and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Schemes for the varietal certification of seed in International trade which promotes the use of agriculture seed of consistently high quality. Currently the main sources of organic vegetable seed imported into Australia are the Dutch companies Rjik Zwaan and Bejo Zaden. Whilst these companies are still committed to organic production, they indicated that continued supply to the Australian organic industry would be determined by market and policy developments related to the implementation of the Regulation and Derogation.

ii. Seed saver networks and specialist nurseries. Seed saver groups and specialist nurseries currently represent the largest group of suppliers of organically produced seed and seedlings in Australia. These seed suppliers generally supply a large range of varieties in small seed lots. Many of these suppliers favour open-pollinated and heirloom vegetable and herb varieties, and have well-established market niches in the home gardening sector and with smaller organic producers.

There has been some concern amongst producers regarding the quality of open-pollinated seed from some of these sources. Inconsistent batch performance (variability) and poor germination were some of the problems experienced. Few of these outlets sold certified organic seeds. There was however a trend towards applying for organic certification since the Regulation became mandatory. Some nurseries have opted for outright certification, whilst others have opted to purchase in certified organic seed for resale.

iii. On-farm organic seed production. On-farm production of organic seed consists of specialist seed producers, organic producers who grow their own seed for replanting and who sell any excess to their requirements, and producers who are commissioned by seed companies to produce organic seed on consignment.

Open-pollinated or hybrid? The majority of producers and suppliers believed that hybrid seeds should be retained in organic production; however, there was a trend amongst producers towards the use of open-pollinated varieties. The reasons given for this were largely philosophical, rather than pragmatic. However, since the current suppliers of organic seed were mostly inclined to trade in open-pollinated varieties, one could speculate that many producers were given no option but to use open-pollinated varieties, particularly whilst organic standards required them to purchase seeds of organic origin.

Market forces, to some extent, have dictated if producers utilise hybrid or open-pollinated varieties. Many smaller producers utilised local outlets such as farmers markets, home delivery and specialist retail outlets such as restaurants. Consumer preferences may not be as discerning when purchasing from these outlets, and in fact consumers may actively seek out the more unusual lines such as heirloom varieties. In contrast, larger traders of organic vegetables such as wholesalers, supermarkets and export markets often prefer lines that reflect broader consumer preference trends. These findings were reinforced by the First World Conference on Organic Seed in Rome in 2004:

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“The Conference revealed that the organic sector has two distinct but not mutually exclusive faces: Farmer groups (often small farmers),.....interested in producing for the local market with local varieties or conservation varieties, with sometimes established systems of participatory seed production and exchange ...; and

Large-scale farmers who need to supply local supermarkets or competitive export markets and who have specific quality requirements that are best met by using the modern (hybrid) varieties of commercial seed companies.” (FAO, 2004).

ESTABLISHING AN AUSTRALIAN DATABASE FOR ORGANIC SEED & SEEDLINGS

Privacy concerns by growers prevented direct participation in the creation of a meaningful database within the project and legislated privacy laws prevented data extraction from existing regulator databases to create such as database as required under Article 6(3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No.2092/91. As yet, a coordinated, National approach to the listing and recording of certified suppliers has (at the time of writing) not been undertaken in Australia. However some individual organic certifiers do maintain limited lists of suppliers of organic seed and seedlings. A National database is required to not only provide listings of certified organic seed and seedlings, but as a means to put in place reporting and monitoring mechanisms. This is essential to ensure Australia has continued access for its organic products to export markets and to track the availability and demand for certified organic propagation material.

Database design & delivery. As a minimum, a database that contains the information required under EEC Regulation (EEC) No 1452/2003 should be designed, and should include an appropriate mechanism for organic producers to apply for derogation.

A web-based, interactive database similar to the European-based OrganicXseeds would offer significant benefits. The organisation responsible for the database is FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) in Switzerland, in cooperation with the United Kingdom’s Soil Association and NIAB in England, AIAB in Italy, the LBI (Lois Bolk Institut) and the Stichting Zaadgoed in Holland and the German working group ALOG. An additional advantage of an interactive database is the potential fiscal benefits of an on-line trading service. The market penetration of Web-based information could improve investment confidence in the domestic supply and trade of organic seed and seedlings, whilst also offering bi-lateral trade opportunities between Australia and its international markets.

ALTERNATIVE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORGANIC SEED & SEEDLINGS

In order for production and supply issues for organic propagation material to be minimised it is clear that the demand for the products need to be increased. A number of alternative markets should be considered.

The nursery and retail trade. Organic gardening is becoming increasingly popular amongst home gardening enthusiasts. The popular television series, ABC’s ‘Gardening Australia’, advocates organic techniques and publishes the monthly ‘Organic Gardener’ magazine. “Mr. Fothergill” brand seeds has launched an organic (non-certified) seed range into ‘conventional’ nurseries and supermarket outlets. This increased interest in organic gardening offers alternative markets for certified organic seed and seedlings, trees and shrubs (referred to as Green Life products) as well as allied garden products such as organic growing media and mixes, fertilisers and plant care products.

In their 2002 Australian Horticultural Statistics Handbook, Horticulture Australia Limited reported the combined garden services and retail trade in Green Life products was valued at \$468 million, whilst the allied garden product trade for retail products was valued at \$780.5 million and the café and gift segment accounted for \$42 million. If the certified organic industry could capture just 1% of this trade this would represent \$4.68 million for Green Life, \$7.8 million for allied garden products and \$0.42 million in the café and gift segment.

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Organic seed production opportunities. Organic production of seed offers potential income diversification opportunities for ware crop producers. This could be through contracting production to existing seed companies or by direct sale to other organic producers. Production of organic seed for export could also offer some potential. Tasmania and Western Australia, due to their relative isolation and quarantine restrictions were seen as the most likely locations for these operations. The advantages of Tasmania as a climatically suitable counter-seasonal producer for Northern Hemisphere markets has been recognised by several seed companies. The major crop types include brassicas, especially hybrid cabbage and cauliflower, root crops such as potato, carrot and parsnip, onions, and leaf crops such as spinach and silver beet.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A national approach is urgently required to identify and prioritise strategies that impact on the supply and demand of organic seed and seedlings. Maintenance of an adequate genetic resource base is a major challenge for the industry. As there are few vegetable breeding or selection programs currently operating in Australia it is imperative that the organic industry use this opportunity to create a solution to their needs.

It is recommended the Australian Organic Industry consider the following strategies:

- Convene a National Organic Industry Forum bringing together key stakeholders to discuss issues associated with the Regulation and the development of a harmonised approach to facilitate supply and demand for organic plant propagation material within Australia
- Industry urgently needs to determine a clear, concise and harmonised interpretation of the Regulation and Derogation, including a time frame for full implementation
- The development of an interactive web-based National Database of suppliers of certified organic seed and seedlings, which satisfies the requirements of EEC Regulation (EEC) No 1452/2003

In order to minimise the impact of the Regulation and its requirements on organic producers and suppliers it is recommended that:

- Producer cooperatives facilitate the supply & purchase of organic seed and seedlings
- More on-farm seed production be undertaken to fill the supply gap
- Users form alliances through their certifiers with larger 'commercial' suppliers of seed and seedlings to facilitate of supply and demand
- Ware growers determine their annual requirements for organic seed and seedlings well in advance of their production season requirements.
- Seed and seedling suppliers investigate alternative markets for (eg Green Life and Allied Products horticultural segments)
- Seed and seedling suppliers identify export opportunities for counter-seasonal supply of fresh organic seed for the large northern hemisphere markets (EU, Japan, USA).

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Green thumbs up for Australia's first Organic Expo!

Close to 6000 people crowded into Australia's first Organic Expo held at Sydney's Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre on 30 & 31 July 2005, highlighting the huge public and trade interest in the fast-growing organic industry and paving the way for a bigger show in Sydney and possibly other capital cities next year.



Above: Part of the large crowd which attended Sydney's inaugural Organic Expo (Photo courtesy Mary Hackett)

85 exhibitors across 7 lifestyle categories showcased a wide array of quality certified organic and environmental products and services, ranging from gardening products to fashion and unexpected new products such as pet food. The expo highlighted a surprising array of products and services across all areas of everyday living. Organic pet care, fruit juice, fashion and kid's products were also launched at the show to an enthusiastic audience.

Food lovers gathered around the Smeg Celebrity Stage to watch demonstrations and appearances by award winning chefs and authors including Kylie Kwong, Stephanie Alexander and Mirko Grillini. Senator Hon. Richard Colbeck opened the expo, saying: "The Australian Government is committed to encouraging all types of agricultural production, and will continue to be a strong supporter of the burgeoning organic industry".



Above: Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Senator Richard Colbeck officially opens Sydney Organic Expo (Photo courtesy Mary Hackett)

The expo included the inaugural Australia & New Zealand Organic Wine Show, showcasing 97 entires of diverse and original range of quality organic wines from different regions throughout Australia and New Zealand. Hochkirch Winery from the Henty Region in Western Victoria took home the beautifully carved Gil Wahlquist Trophy for their 2003 Riesling. The winners, John and Jennifer Nagorcka were delighted with the result. "It was pleasing to see a strong line up of Biodynamic and Organic wines and particularly satisfying that the judges made no allowances simply because the wines were organic."

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Above and below: From organic paint to organic beef – all was on show at the Organic Expo (Photos courtesy Mary Hackett)



Over 50% of the stands focused on organic food and wine there were many opportunities to taste and enjoy delicious food and award winning wines. Exhibitors were delighted with the public's keen interest about their products and services and where to source them from. One lucky attendee from Sydney's Outer-West won the show competition of a 'complete SMEG kitchen appliance package' valued at \$12,625.

Exhibitors were already planning for next year. Andy Monk, MD of Green Planet and former CEO of the Biological Farmers of Australia said "The Organic Expo proved itself an excellent opportunity to launch the Green Planet name, going beyond exhibitors expectations in terms of volume and quality of attendees. Our apple juice which was shown for tasting and sales disappeared by Sunday afternoon. This is now a landmark Australian organic consumer and trade event that few will afford to miss on future occasions. If success is judged by repeat custom, Green Planet looks forward to the Organic Expo appearing not only in Sydney next year but in cities such as Melbourne into the future – as do all exhibitors that we spoke to."

The organic industry bodies also welcomed the response. Andre Leu, Chair of the Organic Federation of Australia said: "The Organic Expo showcased the incredible diversity and quality of organic products to thousands of interested people. I congratulate the organisers Smeaton Hackett Events of this very successful event and look forward to seeing an even larger one next year"

Story and photos courtesy Mary Hackett - Smeaton Hackett Events (SHE) Mobile: 0414 306 689 Phone: 02 9319 1228 E-mail: mary@shevents.com.au



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Report on the NSW Food Authority pesticide residue survey of certified organic food

In March 2005, the NSW Food Authority conducted a pesticide residue survey on food products in NSW that were certified organic. 60 samples from 12 different certified organic food products were analysed for pesticide residues. Samples were tested for residues of agricultural compounds/pesticides commonly associated with the food products tested. **No residues were detected.** These results are consistent with those of other residue surveys conducted in both Australia and NZ, indicating that there are no public health and safety risks, or quality issues with certified organic food products being sold in NSW.

Copies of the 'Report on the NSW Food Authority Organic Residue Survey' (May 2005) may be obtained from Robyn Neeson email: robyn.neeson@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Study finds organic farming produces same corn and soybean yields as conventional farms

July 13, 2005 Cornell University by Susan S. Lang

ITHACA, N.Y. — Organic farming produces the same yields of corn and soybeans as does conventional farming, but uses 30 percent less energy, less water and no pesticides, a review of a 22-year farming trial study concludes.

David Pimentel, a Cornell University professor of ecology and agriculture, concludes, "Organic farming offers real advantages for such crops as corn and soybeans." Pimentel is the lead author of a study that is published in the July issue of *Bioscience* (Vol. 55:7) analysing the environmental, energy and economic costs and benefits of growing soybeans and corn organically versus conventionally.

The study is a review of the Rodale Institute Farming Systems Trial, the longest running comparison of organic vs. conventional farming in the United States.

"Organic farming approaches for these crops not only use an average of 30 percent less fossil energy but also conserve more water in the soil, induce less erosion, maintain soil quality and conserve more biological resources than conventional farming does," Pimentel added.

News courtesy of Chris Brunswick-Hullock, Industry Development Officer - Organic Agriculture, Tasmania Dept Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

UPDATE - 15th IFOAM World Organic Congress

There is just over five weeks to go before the Opening Ceremony on Tuesday afternoon September 20th. Time is running out for you to register for this once in a lifetime international organic event at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The 15th IFOAM Organic World Congress is bringing together the world's leading organic farming practitioners, policy makers, scientists and innovators to ask and answer the big questions about sustainability and investigate long-term strategies for the future.

Registrations to date exceed 700 delegates from 40 countries - and every day that number is increasing. There is a limit to the number of Congress delegate positions. Don't miss IFOAM 2005 in Adelaide, South Australia (Sept 20th – 23rd) followed by the Go Organic Festival (Sept 24th & 25th) and the IFOAM General Assembly (Sept 26th & 27th). Register on line at <http://www.ifoam2005.info/> or ring the Congress Secretariat on +61 8 8352 7099

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Organic & Sustainability Expo for Victoria in 2006

Victoria's largest ever Organics and Sustainability expo will be held in Bendigo in May next year.

'ECOV - The Global Organics and Sustainability Show' will be a multi-layered interactive celebration of environmental sustainability. It will be held at the new multi-million dollar Bendigo Exhibition Centre on May 5-7, 2006.

ECOV will see the largest display of Organic and Bio-Dynamic products and the largest exhibition of environmentally friendly products and services in Victoria. Being a regionally-based expo it will also be the first time in Australia that sustainable farming will be included in a major eco show.

ECOV Director, Brian Abbott says ECOV will offer authenticity. Research conducted into visits to wineries and Farmers' Markets shows that more and more people appreciate opportunities to meet the authentic producers of the products they buy. Mr Abbott says this will be one of the main draw cards of ECOV.

Reinforcing the theme "Sustainable Homes, Sustainable Workplaces, Sustainable Communities" ECOV will be a showcase of sustainability in all its forms. The displays will be interactive with exhibitors encouraged to have samples of their produce available for trying, tasting and purchase; and working models of products in fields as diverse as solar energy and worm farming.

Mr Abbott says visitors will be encouraged to 'browse, engage and graze' with the exhibitors.

In the Sustainable Homes section there will be a vast selection of goods and services that people can use to make their everyday lives more sustainable. There'll be ideas for home renovations and the building of new homes, energy-saving and more efficient household products and appliances, water conservation in the home and garden and many more.

It will also be home to the Organics display. The banner of Sustainable Workplaces will cover concepts and products as varied as green procurement to office supplies and equipment that has been recognised by the awarding of Good Environmental Choice labels. It will look at companies that are making an effort to reduce waste through recycling, and those trying to achieve environmental sustainability in their manufacturing processes.

The farm section will include bio fuels, more efficient irrigation, no till farming and developing concepts like natural sequence farming.

Sustainable Communities will look at the broader aspects of sustainability, be it through school projects or ventures like tree planting to how government departments and agencies and community groups are attempting to achieve sustainability. The recreation section will be wide, from those promoting eco-tourism and organic farm stays, through to hiking, bird watching and nature conservation.

Alongside the exhibitions there will be several streams of seminars that will be open to all visitors. Mr Abbott says they'll show how individuals can make a difference by choosing to make their lives more environmentally friendly.

He says ECOV will be packed with ideas; the seminars will explain how they can be incorporated into everyday living. While there'll be technical seminars on sustainable farming, biodiesel, organics and the like, many others will target the general public.

One of the features of the expo will be the ECOV Innovation Awards. Exhibitors in each of the three sections, Sustainable Homes, Sustainable Workplaces, and Sustainable Communities will be able to nominate one product or service from their display to be considered for the Innovation Award.

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An award will be presented in each of the three sections for a product or service that makes the greatest contribution to advancing environmental sustainability.

Details for exhibitors can be found on the ECOV website, <http://www.ecov.net.au> or by writing to ECOV at PO Box 698, Bendigo Vic 3552. Media comment: Brian Abbott, Phone: 0404 06 1404. Email: media@ecov.net.au

New alliance provides opportunities for organic industry promotion

OrganicChoice.com.au, a new web-based promotional and resource centre for certified organic products in Australia, has formed an alliance with Organic & Wellness News (OWN), the first international trade journal for the organic and natural sectors, with worldwide distribution.

OWN is published twice a year following industry cycles. 20,000 copies are made available to selected exhibitors and visitors at major trade fairs, via mail to subscribers and via sponsored mailings to North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Rim. The 2005 edition, which closed on July 1, will be distributed at these major events:

SANA Bologna 8-11 September 2005

BioFach America/Expo East, Washington 15-18 September 2005

IFOAM Organic World Congress, Adelaide 20-23 September 2005

Natexpo and SIAL, Paris 15-17 October 2005

Bio Cultura, Madrid 4-7 November 2005

Middle East Natural & Organic Products Expo, Dubai 6-8 December

This edition will include a preview of the **15th IFOAM Organic World Congress** and feature Australian organics, including a market overview, key export products and business opportunities. To supplement the full page/spread feature, Organic Choice are coordinating a collective advertising feature which will include company listings, logos and product pictures for those who are looking to establish overseas connections. Various ad rates and sizings are available at <http://www.organic-and-wellness-news.com/advertising/index.php#advert>. In addition to this, and at no extra cost, Organic Choice will provide a special feature on the OrganicChoice.com.au website. This feature will provide a reference point for interested parties from overseas to access further information relating to all who are included in the Australian feature. This will include brand/product details, contact details and a direct link to your website.

For further information contact Rob Molloy, Organic Choice on (08) 8370 2563 or email to rob@organicchoice.com.au.

New RIRDC reports

From Planting to Harvest - A study of water requirements of olives

This research shows that appropriate timing of prescribed volumes of irrigation provides adequate moisture to the crop while minimising wastage. Prescribed irrigation is a simple process using soil moisture monitoring devices to determine the water volume needed to reach the active root zone. Irrigation scheduling using these devices is not new but is often overlooked as an optional extra in an irrigation operation rather than a fundamental tool with the same importance as the pump and pipe work. Report summary and access to full report at: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/NPP/05-039sum.html> Also read Olive Harvest - Harvest timing for optimal olive oil quality at: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/NPP/05-013sum.html>

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Sustainable Pest and Disease Management in Australian Olive Production

This project is the first to comprehensively address pests and diseases in Australian olives. The rapid expansion of the olive industry together with its relatively young stage of development provided the opportunity to develop a clearer picture of the pest and disease complex in major olive-growing districts, as well as to provide education on sustainable options for their management. Report summary and access to full report at: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/NPP/05-080sum.html>

Also read The Olive Industry - an Environmental Systems Framework at: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/NPP/04-057sum.html>

Grass fed livestock website

Some of you may be interested in this website: <http://www.eatwild.com>

Organic management for reducing internal parasites in livestock

Refer to these websites for some excellent information on organic methods for controlling internal parasites in ruminants:

A Review: Alternative Methods of Controlling Internal Parasites in Ruminants
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/organic/organic_14c.php

The Control of Internal parasites in Ruminants
<http://www.eap.mcgill.ca/AgroBio/ab370-04e.htm>

15th IFOAM World Organic Congress, Adelaide, 20-23 September 2005

For more information contact: Jan Denham 2005 Organic World Congress Co-ordinator General: +61 8 8339 7800 Direct: +61 3 5027 9249 E-mail: ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au or go to the Congress Website: <http://www.ifoam2005.info>

Landcare Community Support

Applications are open for the Community Support component of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Community Support funds local and regional landcare activities, which include promoting sustainable farming practices, rehabilitation of catchments and salinity management and erosion control. Funding must be matched by the recipient. Application details are on the website: <http://www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=94998953-288A-4D93-846833FD62EECC30>, Ph: 1800 657 220 or email: nlpcommunitysupport@daff.gov.au

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Do you have any Organic News?

Do you have any research results, field day reports or other information that may be of relevance to organic agriculture? If so, let us hear about it! Send your contributions to:

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Note: Electronic format is preferred. Text - Times New Roman 11 point.

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The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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