

Executive Summary

Summerfruit NZ have identified a need to review and reprioritise its research programme. To assist with this review Summerfruit NZ nominated a number of grower and industry representatives to form a consultative group. Workshops in the Hawkes Bay and Central Otago workshops were organised to engage with this consultative group. Both workshops presented an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion of the key issues, to understand what issues are challenging for growers, and where Summerfruit NZ might assist through R&D activities.

A series of 'pillars' have been created to reflect the workshop discussions and focus on three main themes: Environment, Orchard management, Crop protection, and an 'Other' category to capture issues, equally important but not directly related to the three main pillars.

Environment	Orchard management	Crop protection	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water use and availability, climate change • Compliance and licence to operate • Soil health and crop nutrition • C-footprinting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automation and future orchard production systems • Crop load management • FOPS/UFO • Thinning • Rootstocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrichemicals – loss of actives • New chemistry and control tools (chemical / biological / cultural) • Resistance management • Pest and disease prediction models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity – offshore risks • Market access • Fruit quality – modified storage

A proposed framework for action has been developed expanding on the topics under these pillars. A series of short-(1-2 years), medium-(2-5 years), and longer- (5+ years) term R&D activities have been identified within this framework. Fundamentally, the proposed R&D activities should provide the underpinning knowledge that the sector needs to address the issues raised. Aligned to this should be a long-term plan of research activities that will help to position the sector along a path to future success.