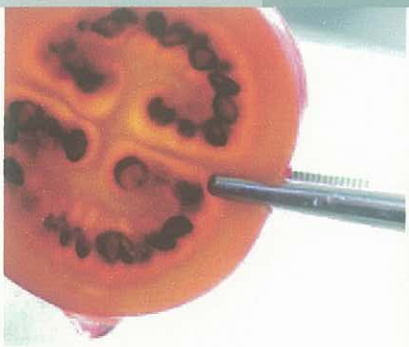


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HortResearch 

2005
annual report



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MAORI

The Maori economy is growing fast and making a substantial contribution to the New Zealand economy as a whole. Maori are also highly integrated into the wider New Zealand economy at all levels and make a significant and vital contribution to it, as workers, owners, investors and consumers.

HortResearch is committed to a process of engagement with Maori that, like the enduring partnership it aims to foster, will be strong and sustainable.

During 2004, HortResearch continued the process of determining how the company could best engage with Maori.

A series of meetings and workshops brought together various people in HortResearch, including members of Nga Toa Ngaki Kai - HortResearch's network of Maori staff, - the senior executive team, and representative scientists. This diverse group considered all aspects of our operations, and developed a Policy of Engagement with Maori.

The policy reflects our intent to build mutually beneficial relationships with Maori and to engage in a way that enhances the knowledge, understanding and position of both Maori and HortResearch. It recognises Maori as partners in business and as partners with HortResearch, a Crown Research Institute, under the Treaty of Waitangi.

Approved by the Board of Directors July 2004, the engagement policy is an important milestone that will guide the development of this critical relationship.

The policy grew from a realisation that significant commercial synergies are emerging between Maori business and HortResearch. Much of the focus of Maori business is in the primary sector, including horticulture, where there are good opportunities for HortResearch and Maori to collaborate.

Advances in horticultural science offer Maori an opportunity to enhance their use and management of the land in accordance with the principles of Kaitiakitanga. In turn, HortResearch is eager to build partnerships with Maori that capture and utilise Mataranga Maori, traditional knowledge of the natural world.

The Engagement policy contains clear implementation guidelines. These express our respect for Maori Intellectual Property and taonga and commit us to engage in dialogue.

A Hui was held during April to discuss specific actions needed to give effect to our Engagement Policy. The Hui brought together staff from across HortResearch and Board Member Fiona Wilson. The group shared ideas on how best to implement the Policy and ultimately agreed to focus efforts in three specific areas: Commercial, Capability Building and Treaty Response. From this Hui emerged a Draft Maori Engagement Plan that will guide us in coming years.

At the heart of this ongoing commitment will be a dedicated Maori Relationship Manager and a Business Leader.

With this team as its nucleus, HortResearch's engagement with Maori will develop further still through a range of educational measures designed to increase our institutional understanding of Maori language, culture and values.

Working Together

While working hard to build a common future, HortResearch and Maori have continued to enjoy and develop existing relationships.

These include partnerships aimed at developing land and systems for horticulture and ventures that utilise unique plant and environmental resources to create new wealth and employment opportunities. Co-operation will also enhance information and capacity transfer.

→ We are working with Ohuia Incorporation, a Maori Incorporation based in the heart of the Wairoa region, to develop a test site for evaluating new cultivars and selections of pip and stone fruit. This project, led by the Management Committee of Ohuia, is a way to meet the social and cultural obligations of the Incorporation while addressing new economic directions that do not negatively harm their environment. Through a cadet programme and HortResearch scientists, their Whanau are building their horticultural capabilities. This will enable them to define and lead their own development in the horticulture industry.

engagement