



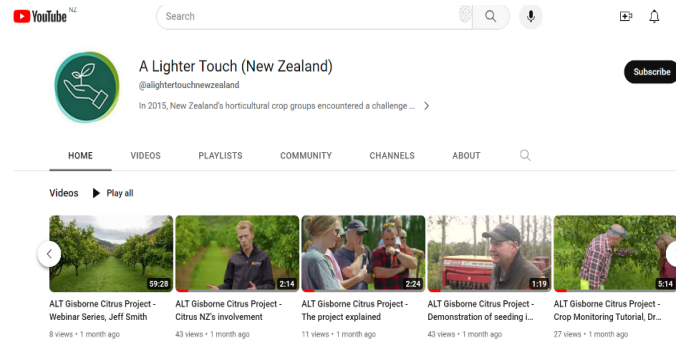
Progress report for the period April to June 2023

www.a-lighter-touch.co.nz

As we begin the first quarter of the fourth year of the A Lighter Touch Programme (ALT) we are excited to present our first completed agroecological project, *Agroecological approaches to insect pest control in perennial crop systems* (the Citrus Project). Activity for this quarter has included approval of the Annual Plan and Budget for Year 4, project plan development focussing on the regulatory pathway, enduring outcomes, and minor use trials, and finalising the communications strategy.

Achievements from this period include:

- Final approval of the Annual Plan and Budget for year 4 of the Programme.
- Completion of the Agroecological Project, *Agroecological approaches to insect pest control in perennial crop systems* (the Citrus Project). Learnings from the project have been developed into Grower resources, Citrus NZ has established foundation sites to demonstrate impact of biodiverse plantings to grower crop protection practices and similar projects have been established in ALT partner crops. Resources – [A Lighter Touch \(a-lighter-touch.co.nz\)](http://A Lighter Touch (a-lighter-touch.co.nz)).
- A trial has begun on greenhouse tomatoes in Pukekohe to investigate the residue pattern of four insecticides that control whitefly.
- Concept project plans which will test the regulatory pathway and develop enduring outcomes have been endorsed by the Industry Strategic Advisory Group (ISAG) and will developed into full project proposals for consideration.
- The annual ALT gaps workshop was held in Wellington in May. The workshop, now in its fourth year, is designed to help product groups identify their most significant crop protection issues and prioritise them in terms of importance to their sectors. It also helps define pests and diseases that are common to multiple sectors.
- The Programme Director and Agroecology Technical Lead were invited to attend the Corteva Sustainability Workshop in Melbourne. It was an opportunity to brainstorm, query, and discover how industry can align and support each other to



Resources from the Citrus Project are available on the ALT website and ALT YouTube channel.



Programme Director, Livia Esterhazy and Agroecological Technical Lead Jeff Smith attending the Corteva Sustainability Workshop in Melbourne with the Corteva Team from NZ.

achieve a resilient and viably sustainable food production system.

- The Programme Manager and Transition Technical Lead represented ALT at the Mystery Creek Field Days in mid- June, taking the opportunity to talk to those attending about the work going on within the programme and make connections with other stall holder and government officials.
- ISAG members, Brian van Wyk and Ian Turk presented to their respective growers at their annual field days. ALT projects were presented to Passionfruit and Persimmon growers and who were provided the opportunity to discuss whether the presented findings aligned with their observations and/or provided potential opportunities for their sectors.



ISAG member Brian van Wyk shares findings from the Passionvine Hopper Project with passionfruit growers at their Field Day.

Investment period contribution	Co-investor contribution	MPI	Total investment
During this Quarter	\$1,351,470	\$671,718	\$2,023,188
Programme to date	\$7,035,347	\$4,143,495	\$10,754,614