

Dear FAN grower members

Our company, Quantal Bioscience ([www.quantalbioscience.com](http://www.quantalbioscience.com)), is a small and innovative Sydney-based laboratory, engaged in research and development in applied microbiology and microbiomics across the health and medical, food, and agricultural and environmental sectors. Among our number are five ex-CSIRO scientists, and our wider team includes microbiology, horticulture, post-harvest and integrated pest management expertise. As a company, we have a passion for translating our knowledge and experience into useful solutions to industry problems.

At present we are seeking to better understand problems in the horticulture and agriculture industry, specifically with regards the need, and current practices on-the-ground, for monitoring microbial pathogens and disease in crops, and for identification of horticultural and agricultural pathogens, in a timely fashion that facilitates effective intervention.

As such, we're hoping to speak with growers, owners and operators about their experiences, problems and successes in monitoring and diagnosing microbial pathogens and diseases in a range of systems, both in broadacre agriculture and horticulture, including protected cropping, aquaponic and nursery, as well as post-harvest operations. Especially for growers in the organic / biodynamic space, we're also really interested to learn about how you are monitoring the beneficial microbe side of the equation too!

It's important to us, in line with our company philosophy, that we align our research efforts with the needs of industry, and so any thoughts and experience that you would be willing to share with us around this problem area would be very much appreciated.

**Are you happy to share 30 minutes of your time, anytime that works for you, before the end of April, to tell us a little about your thoughts and experience in this area?** If so, we'd love to hear from you, to arrange a suitable time to speak, which we can do over the phone, or via Zoom if you prefer.

For your information, any answers that you provide will remain confidential with us, you are welcome to decline to answer any questions that you wish, and we have no intention of publishing your answers anywhere, we are simply wishing to check some of our assumptions about problems in industry that will help us to guide our research efforts.

With great thanks for considering our request, and with great thanks also to FAN for circulating this notice for us.

To get in contact, and please feel free to suggest an interview time that works best for you when you do 😊, please email Dr Belinda Chapman ([belinda.chapman@quantalbioscience.com](mailto:belinda.chapman@quantalbioscience.com)) or call Belinda on 0448 207 585

Thank you FAN!

Regards

Belinda Chapman

Director, Quantal Bioscience