

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 903**  
**Asked on 14 June 2011**

**MR RYAN** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies (MR MULHERIN)–

**QUESTION:**

What activities have the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation launched in the past two years to assist Queensland's ginger industry?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) has been actively partnering with the ginger industry since 1963 when the Buderim Ginger Growers' Association (now known as the Australian Ginger Industry Association) instigated a research levy on growers.

That partnership continues today and a new, more broadly-based levy (collected by both processors and marketers of fresh ginger) is administered by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. DEEDI staff facilitation was essential in this process.

DEEDI scientists have been involved in a number of research projects supported various industry and research bodies, including the Australian Ginger Industry Association, the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and Horticulture Australia Limited and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Research projects have included work into the control of a pest (symphylids) and a disease (Pythium Rhizome Rot) which are responsible for serious crop losses in the ginger industry; a study into the best growing conditions for ginger; and a market study for the industry.

As a result of the department's positive working relationship with industry partners, the outcomes of this work has been presented and distributed through the industry organisation. Further workshops and field days have been organised to assist with uptake and application of the findings.

As a result of DEEDI research, growers are now able to access information relating to the appropriate organic inputs, tillage and rotation practices in a ginger farming system in an effort to improve soil health and the suppression of soil borne pests and pathogens.

DEEDI staff have also prepared a report entitled, 'Overview of Market Trends and Opportunities for the Australian Ginger Industry' which was published in 2009. This document assisted in forward strategic planning for the industry and was followed by the foundation of the Australian Ginger Industry Association.