



## Project Completion Template

Project Title:	Meeting the increasing demand for New Zealand Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Project Number:	19025
Date of Report:	7 October 2022

**This information from Sections 2 – 5 and Section 11 will be published on the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) website unless you advise us otherwise.**

### 1. Milestone Summary Table

Milestone Number	Milestone [As per SFF contract schedule]	Completion Date		Percent Complete
		Original	Actual	
1	Project initiation & first regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/10/2019	13/11/2019	100%
2	Second regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/04/2020	06/04/2020	100%
3	Harvest Data – Yr 1 analysis and third regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/11/2020	09/11/2020	100%
4	Fourth regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/04/2021	21/04/2021	100%
5	Harvest Data – Yr 2 analysis and fifth regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/11/2021	08/11/2021	100%
6	Sixth regional Focus Grove Field Days	30/04/2022	04/04/2022	100%
7	Harvest Data – Yr 3 analysis	30/10/2022	07/10/2022	100%
8	Final Review and Report	30/10/2022	07/10/2022	100%

## 2. Project Objectives

(Why did you do this project? What were your key objectives at the start of the project? Outline if any of these objectives changed during the course of the project.)

This project aims to increase the production of established olive groves to meet the increasing demand for New Zealand Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO) and will provide a template for any new groves. The target is an additional 5kg per tree.

The project will also look at developing an alternate/organic approach to olive grove management. Unfortunately the groves that opted to be organic were unwilling to follow the required recommendations. However one of the other Focus Groves initiated the approach on a separate block within their grove. The progress of an organic registered grove, following a different approach, was visited and monitored during the project.

## 3. Approach

(What did you do – how did you go about it?)

There were five Focus Groves across the country in the main growing regions who followed the Manzate regime and other recommendations from the Project Consultant.

There were to be other groves across the country who would follow the alternate/organic recommendations.

All Focus Groves were visited twice yearly starting in October 2019 and finishing in March 2022, except for Northland where the last visit was in August 2022 because of COVID disruption in 2021.

## 4. What were the main findings from this project?

- It is possible to increase harvest tonnage by 5-10kg per tree by following up with mechanical branch shaker after the machine harvester
- Disease Management – you must be vigilant!
- Biennial bearing can be addressed – go hard!
- Soil and tree health improve with targeted nutrition
- Fruit left on trees adversely affects next season's flowering
- Eradicant effective in cleaning up disease immediately post-harvest
- Maintained groves are more resilient to weather issues
- Interval between spraying can be increased in dry weather
- Glyphosate usage can be reduced by 50%
- Focus Groves continue to out-perform regional averages

## **5. What difference has this project made to your group / community of interest / industry?**

(Include intangible benefits where significant — e.g. “enabled us to develop a strong on-going working relationship with the scientists”).

Proven that it is possible to increase grove production by effective grove management practices and to also reduce/eliminate biennial production.

Shown that the organic approach may work, provided a grove is already at an exemplary stage.

## **6. If you did the project again what would you do differently?**

(i.e. what worked and what didn't?).

Probably nothing, the methodologies worked well.

Groves should be encouraged to 'go hard' when starting a restructuring programme

## **7. Is there anything the SFF could have done differently?**

No

## **8. Is there anything that you have learnt that would be useful for new project teams?**

With production now better and more consistent on the world stage, it is timely to look at different aspects such as:

- yield increase for oil (harvest timing)
- increasing fruit set,
- growing larger fruit
- Polyphenol production.

## **9. Where to from here – what are the next steps?**

An application will be worked on for a new project as above.

## 10. Financial summary

Provide a brief comment as to whether the project was completed on budget; whether there is any grant money left unspent. There is a separate Financial Summary sheet you are also required to submit. Please ask your Project Advisor for this.

The budget allocation was fully spent as per the Financial Summary sheet.

However, the In-Kind allowance for the Focus Grove Participants proved to be woefully inadequate. The budget had really only allowed for soil and leaf tests at \$4,260 per grove over the three years and not implementation of any actions required. All of the groves indicated that they wished to implement the fertilisers, etc. in line with deficiencies identified. For the two smaller groves (Olives on the Hill, Aquiferra) this amounted to a total of approx. \$10,000 each over the three years. For the larger groves (Leafyridge, Kakariki, Terrace Edge) this amounted to \$30,000 - \$40,000 each over the three years. These figures represent product costs and do not include application costs.

## 11. List and attach any major outputs from the project.

Examples could include:

- Scientific reports
- Code of Practice/ Best Practice Guide
- Publications (booklets, posters, links to websites)

Available on the website are:

- six Field Day Reports
- three Fact Sheets (Organic Approach, COVID checklist, Disease Management)
- four Harvest Data Reports
- two Conference Presentations.

These have also been attached to the Milestone reporting.

**If appropriate, we would like to publish a copy of the above on our website: please provide an electronic copy for this purpose preferably in Word format.**

## Report Confirmation

Name	Confirmation	Date
Gayle Sheridan, Project Manager	I hereby confirm the above information is true and correct:	19/09/2022