

3 June 2022

J Bruning

Email: <fyi-request-19297-e6bfc683@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Official Information Act Request (PFR Ref: 0935.2.1.05.22)

Further to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding Plant & Food Research's protocols on intellectual property and financial returns, I am able to provide you with the following information.

- 1. Please supply the protocol for financial return on intellectual property. This might include through sale of the IP or as leasing and royalty payments.*

Plant & Food Research has a publicly available policy (<https://www.plantandfood.com/en-nz/our-views-on-genetic-modification>) on intellectual property on our website. In summary the Institute aims to manage the intellectual assets, we create through our research activities to achieve optimal impact for our partners and industries.

We maximise impact by taking a case-by-case to approach to technology transfer. Much of our research, and therefore intellectual property, is generated through collaboration with other research institutes or industry organisations. In these situations, Plant & Food Research will work with these partners to identify the party that is best placed to manage the intellectual asset such that the technology can be developed to its full potential.

Where intellectual assets are commercialised, and we anticipate that Plant & Food Research will generate commercial returns, we seek to obtain a fair and equitable share of the commercial benefits that are obtained from the exploitation of that intellectual asset. Plant & Food Research does not have a prescribed protocol for determining commercial returns on intellectual assets and any consideration would be agreed with the commercial partner through good faith negotiations.

We do not have a revenue sharing policy with Plant & Food Research staff.

Plant & Food Research returns all revenue from commercialisation activities back into the business. In the last financial year, Plant & Food Research receipted a total of \$58 million in royalty revenues. This revenue was re-invested to support additional research activity.

Examples of how value from our research comes back to New Zealand can be found on our website, for example, [our case study on the cultivar 'Zesy002'](#), marketed as Zespri® SunGold Kiwifruit.

2. Modern biotech/gene technology returns on investment.

Plant & Food Research makes use of genetic modification only within approved containment facilities, the ways in which we [view use of genetic modification](#) is on our website. Therefore, Plant & Food Research has not received any financial returns from intellectual assets that relate to genetic technologies such as CRISPR-based gene-editing or genetic modifications.

We do not categorise our scientific reports on the basis of whether or not they use genetic technologies, so are unable to provide this information.

I trust this reply serves to meet your request. You have the right to refer this reply to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Timewell
Communications Manager