

# Farm Management System

## Guiding Change and Technology Adoption in Nursery Production & Growing Media Manufacturers



Setting the Standards



Setting the Standards

### Farm Management System Supporting Innovative Business



Setting the Standards



Setting the Standards



A Farm Management System (FMS) is a property or business management system that provides production nurseries (as primary producers) with the necessary tools to evaluate and continuously improve their business professionalism, productivity, profitability and sustainability.



Nursery & Garden Industry  
Queensland



Know-how for Horticulture™



The Farm Management System (FMS) program seeks to encourage primary producers to adopt Best Management Practices (BMP) and become better prepared for the future through risk analysis and action planning. It encourages the identification of risks (production, environmental, biosecurity, etc) within the business and the planning and actions required to minimize their impact. It is a system of continuous improvement that utilises on-site assistance to guide the business through cycles of change and technology adoption.

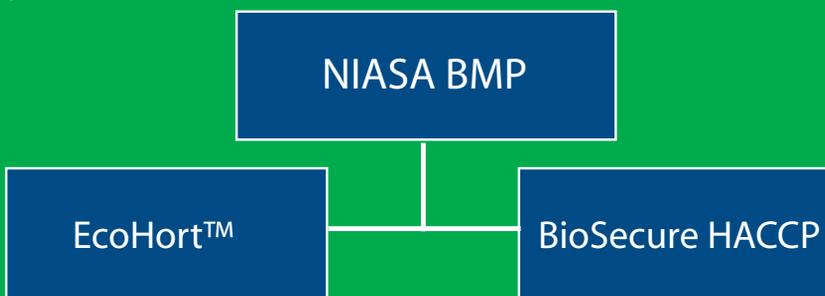
An FMS enables business owners to critically evaluate each component of their enterprise and identify areas of concern. A systematic approach is then adopted to ensure that the areas requiring improvement are addressed and are continually reviewed.

Importantly, an FMS is a broad framework that specific industry programs fits into, giving primary producers ownership of their FMS. Industries develop, manage, and nominate their specific programs for inclusion into their FMS.

The Queensland Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Queensland Farmers Federation recognising the validity of the FMS Framework. The MoU provides government agencies with the catalyst to recognise relevant industry programs with the potential to meet compliance requirements, provide for co-regulation or limit legislative control (eg. EPA, NRMW, and DPI&F).

## Nursery Industry Farm Management System (FMS)

The nursery industry has developed an industry specific FMS that includes the three key programs designed for nursery production.



### NIASA Best Management Practice (Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia)

NIASA is the cornerstone of the nursery industry FMS. For a professional business to remain at the forefront of their industry it is paramount they adopt industry best management practices. NIASA provides a set of guidelines that ensures a business maintains a benchmark standard and commits to continuous improvement. NIASA is supported by a R&D program that applies a rigorous scientific assessment to the strategies and technologies recommended in the BMP Guidelines. Participation in the scheme enables businesses to remain at the cutting edge of nursery production through relevant technical support and science based solutions.

NIASA Accreditation is the formal recognition of a business's commitment to continuous improvement underpinned by a professional system producing consistent quality products.

#### NIASA Best Management Practice The program addresses:

- Crop hygiene - diseases, pests, and weeds
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Crop management practices - nutrition
- General site management - drainage
- Water treatment and storage
- Pesticide management - storage and use
- Raw material inputs - growing media

#### NIASA Best Management Practice How NIASA can help your business grow:

- Improved business profitability
- Encourage continuous improvement
- Produce consistent quality crops
- Enhance customer confidence
- Raise professionalism - knowledge and skills
- Access to technical officers for assistance
- Independent business audit

### EcoHort™ (Nursery Industry Environmental Management System)

The industry FMS integrates the EcoHort™ guidelines which provide a risk assessment based pathway for a business to demonstrate their sound environmental stewardship and natural resource management.

The risk assessment identifies gaps in natural resource and environmental management across the production system. An action plan to minimise or eliminate adverse environmental impacts is prepared and identified risks are prioritised for the business to address. In addition, the program seeks to ensure efficient use of natural resources with emphasis on land and water management.

A cycle of continuous improvement or adaptive management is intrinsic to the process and to the ultimate success of an environmental management system.

To gain formal EcoHort™ Certification a business must first achieve NIASA Accreditation. A business may choose to apply any aspect of EcoHort™ while working towards certification.



#### EcoHort™ – Environmental Management System The program addresses:

- Irrigation system design
- Water quality management
- Waste water management and recycling
- Land and soil management
- Site drainage and water storage
- Site biodiversity
- Management of air, noise and odour
- Measuring, monitoring and recording

#### EcoHort™ – Environmental Management System How EcoHort™ can help your business grow:

- Maintaining natural resource access - land, water
- Demonstrating environmental due diligence
- Managing environmental risks/impacts
- Demonstrating legislative compliance
- On-site assistance in action planning
- Government recognition for compliance
- Production efficiencies through technology
- Environmental labelling of product



### BioSecure HACCP (Property Biosecurity Program)

BioSecure HACCP is the industry biosecurity program under the FMS. This program seeks to identify internal and external threats to biosecurity within an individual business. BioSecure HACCP is a set of protocols and procedures that enable a business to manage biosecurity risks establishing an effective internal quarantine process for both imported and exported material.

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) is the world recognised standard in risk management processes. It is a formal process of risk/hazard identification, nominated risk control points and a verification process used to consistently manage threats to the production cycle.

This risk management system encourages a business to maintain the strictest internal quarantine procedures possible. With improved hazard analysis and control measures in place the business is better protected in the event of a biosecurity threat or impact. Importantly, the process will support future market access and prepare your business for potential export.

To gain formal BioSecure HACCP Certification a business must first achieve NIASA Accreditation. A business may choose to apply any aspect of BioSecure HACCP while working towards certification.

#### BioSecure HACCP – Enterprise biosecurity protection The program addresses:

- Internal quarantine disciplines
- Effective crop monitoring models
- Nursery production biosecurity hazards
- Biosecurity critical control points
- Nursery production hygiene processes
- Plant protection systems
- On-site surveillance, monitoring and recording

#### BioSecure HACCP – Enterprise biosecurity protection BioSecure HACCP can help your business grow by:

- Protecting market access
- Recognised investment in biosecurity
- On-site assistance in HACCP identification
- Pest/disease management reducing crop losses
- Providing customer confidence in product
- Minimising costs through government co-regulation
- Positioning business for export



### Farm Management System independent auditing

The Nursery Industry FMS offers businesses on-farm technical support through a formal independent auditing process. Technical Officers assist businesses by completing risk management audits and action plans for each program within the FMS. Compliance to the guidelines of each program (NIASA, EcoHort™, BioSecure HACCP) can lead to a business gaining approved accreditation/certification under one or all of these programs.

Once a business achieves formal NIASA accreditation they may choose to add EcoHort™ and/or BioSecure HACCP.



### How using an Farm Management System can help the business

FMS is a framework endorsed by industry and government to ensure a sustainable future for primary producers. It is recommended that a modern, professional production nursery or growing media manufacturer use Best Management Practice (BMP) as a foundation for business sustainability.



Using an industry specific FMS assists in focusing an enterprise on the critical analysis of each element of the business. This results in the identification of areas for improvement, a plan for the future, cost reductions and enhanced profitability.

The Nursery Industry FMS provides flexibility in applying one or all of the various programs that make up the system. All programs (NIASA, EcoHort™ & BioSecure HACCP) are supported through a formal recognition process and on-farm technical support.

Applying FMS provides an opportunity for the business to improve its income stream through production development, risk management and market access. FMS provides a comprehensive framework for pro-active planning that will assist in positioning the business to take advantage of future opportunities.

The Nursery Industry Farm Management System (FMS) will:

- Improve business profitability
- Reduce input costs
- Improve your business processes
- Reduce waste
- Manage natural resources
- Manage change & technology adoption
- Reduce restrictive legislation
- Provide co-regulation with government agencies
- Improve community confidence
- Demonstrate environmental stewardship

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