

Protecting Australian vegetable production from antimicrobial resistance



Protecting productivity, food safety and market access

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an emerging challenge for Australian vegetable production. Managing it effectively requires more than responding when resistance is detected.

Australia needs a coordinated approach that combines monitoring, responsible chemical use, research, information sharing and practical support for growers.



The goal is simple: detect emerging risks early, protect the effectiveness of important disease-control tools, and support a productive, competitive and resilient vegetable industry.

What needs to change?

1

Build a national monitoring program

Australia needs a coordinated national AMR surveillance program for vegetable production. Surveillance should track resistant microorganisms and resistance genes, as well as resistance to fungicides and bactericides, across the production and supply chain

Helps us spot emerging problems before they spread



2

Use systems that industry already has

AMR monitoring does not need to start from scratch. Existing food safety and quality assurance programs, including **Freshcare**, **HARPS**, **GLOBALG.A.P.**, **SQF** and **BRCGS**, provide opportunities to incorporate AMR monitoring and responsible antimicrobial use

Builds on what growers already do and uses systems that already work



3

Create a national horticultural AMR network

Australia's grains and wine industries show how coordinated networks can support industry. A similar national network for horticulture could bring together growers, industry, researchers, government, diagnostic laboratories and crop production companies

Better coordination means stronger information sharing and practical support for growers



Priority research areas



Know where resistance is occurring



Understand risks from irrigation water



Use compost with confidence



Keep crop-protection products working



Reduce risks after harvest

Filling these knowledge gaps will help growers and industry focus action where it can make the biggest difference

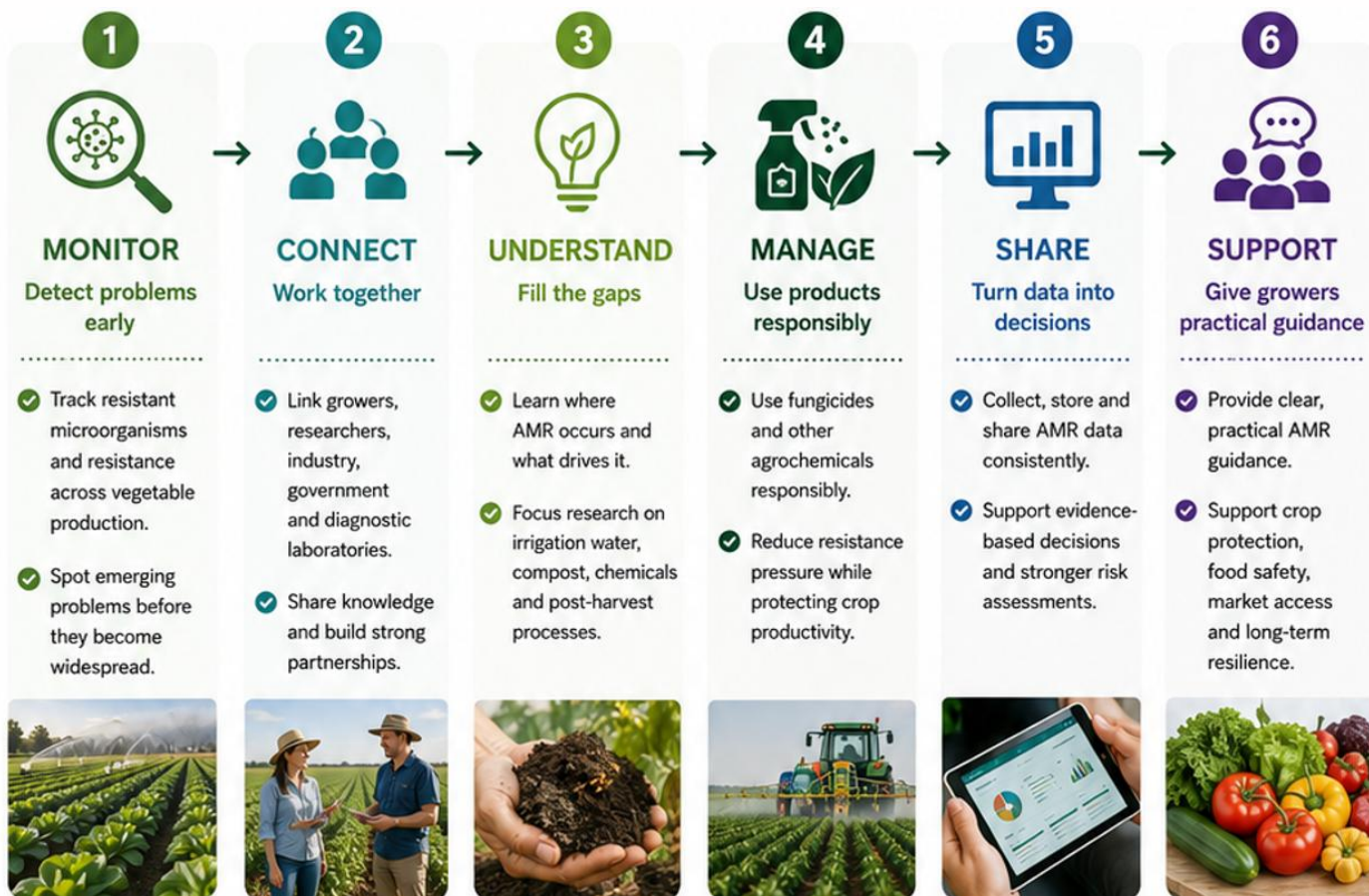
Project partners



Department of
Primary Industries

A practical pathway forward

Six steps to stronger AMR management



Protecting the products growers rely on

Responsible chemical use and integrated pest and disease management can help reduce resistance pressure while protecting productive crops.

The goal is to keep important crop-protection products working effectively for the future

Give growers practical information

AMR guidance should build on what growers already know and fit within existing crop protection, food safety and industry extension activities.

Practical information should help growers:



Protect crops



Protect food safety



Protect market access



Keep important products working