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"The Northern Professionals"

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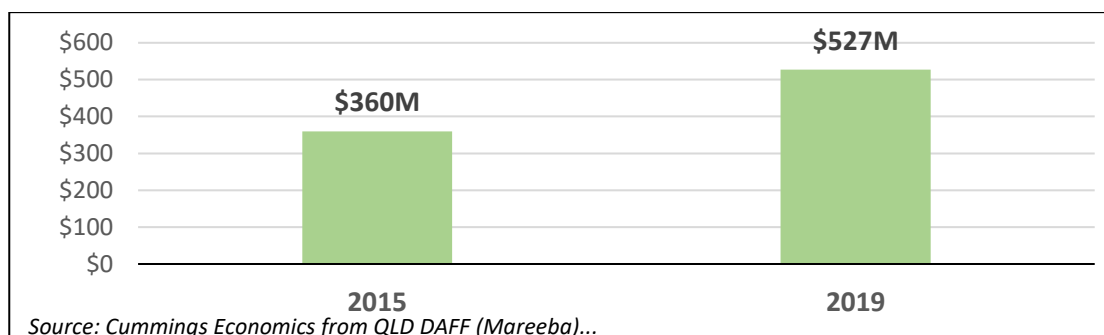
Statistical Note VALUE OF HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRIES UP 45% IN 4 YEARS

Recently compiled figures for horticultural production in the Mareeba/ Tablelands area for 2018-19 of \$528m indicates the degree to which the agricultural sector has become a growth sector in the Cairns/ Tropical North Queensland regional economy.

The figures compiled by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mareeba office, indicate that value of output of horticultural industries on the Tablelands grew by no less than 45% over the four (4) years 2015 to 2019 - from \$360m to \$527m.

It can be expected that total agricultural production on the Tablelands will now have a value of over \$700m and probably approach \$800m.

The major element in the horticultural sector in the Tablelands area is fruit production that accounts for over \$480m of the total. The strong growth in this sector will contribute to consolidation of the Cairns region position as the third largest fruit producing region in Australia.



The figure also indicates that value of agricultural production in the Mareeba Dimbulah Water Supply System (MDWSS) has now expanded to almost \$500m a year. With Tinaroo water now fully allocated, the figures underline the necessity for expansion of water storage in the area if major growth is to continue into the future.

Following are further details.

Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, October 2019 Horticulture continues strong growth on Atherton Tablelands

The value of Atherton Tablelands' agricultural sector has increased by 45 per cent over the past four years, boosted by booming commodities including avocado, citrus and blueberries according to figures produced by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

DAF has updated its Tablelands Agricultural Profile with 2018/2019 horticulture industry figures, the first update since 2015. The 2019 results identify significant expansions in some industries (avocado, citrus and blueberries), new commodities gaining a foothold (table grapes) and traditional industries evolving with new varieties (mango and lychee).

"Horticulture is the Tablelands' major agriculture sector, contributing \$528 million to the Tablelands economy in 2018/2019 – an increase of 45 per cent since 2015", DAF Mareeba-based principal horticulturist Dr Geoff Dickinson said.

He said the significant increase is largely due to the expansion and maturing of avocado, blueberry and citrus plantings within the region and moderate - good market prices for a number of other key horticulture industries

The avocado industry is now the most valuable to the Tablelands, worth \$173 million and has increased rapidly since 2015 when it was worth \$83 million. The Tablelands is now Australia's largest avocado growing region. With half of the avocado trees on the Tablelands' less than five years old and with many more trees yet to be planted, it is anticipated this industry will continue to show strong growth over years to come. Banana, the largest Tablelands' horticulture industry for the past 10 years, has remained consistently strong and is now the second most valuable industry at \$97 million. Other notable industries are mango (\$58 million), citrus (\$56 million), blueberries (\$43 million), papaya (\$19 million) and potatoes (\$18 million).

"High-value horticulture crops such as avocado, banana, citrus and blueberries require high resource inputs and are also highly labour intensive which has brought many new permanent and seasonal jobs to the region" Dr Dickinson said.

DAF continues to support the growth of Tablelands' horticulture through a range of research and development projects as well as acting as a conduit to promote further investment in the region.

Gross Value of Production* of Tablelands Horticulture industries – 2019

Horticultural activity	Farm No.	Area (ha)	Volume sold (T)	Gross Revenue (\$)
Avocado	120	2336	24097	\$172,646,152
Banana	37	1947	52880	\$97,113,600
Basil	8	33	na	\$760,360
Blueberries	<5	99	1072	\$42,880,000
Citrus	124	1604	13889	\$55,723,600
Coffee	9	344	400	\$3,400,000
Custard Apples	7	25	375	\$1,875,000
Flowers	12	15	na	\$1,500,000
Longans	8	100	900	\$4,500,000
Lychee	40	250	500	\$6,290,000
Macadamia	<5	37.9	135	\$607,500
Mango	180	2400	23517	\$58,203,156
Melons	10	42	67	\$1,203,128
Mixed fruit	12	18	377	\$1,672,000
Mixed vegetable	41	51	1485	\$2,998,200
Papaya	15	200	10800	\$19,440,000
Passionfruit	20	40	600	\$2,104,200
Pineapples	<5	150	2800	\$3,360,000
Potatoes	27	746	33604	\$17,507,684
Pumpkins	28	250	8800	\$5,568,000
Strawberries	<5	1.2	36	\$396,036
Sweet Potato	7	110	3495	\$3,495,000
Table grapes	7	223	1574	\$15,740,000
Tea	<5	445	1500	\$6,600,000
Ti-tree	13	140	49	\$1,620,000
Turf	<5	20	8325	\$406,500
TOTAL	739	11,627	191,277	\$527,610,116

*Gross Value of Production. Value of production at wholesale prices realised in the marketplace. Values calculated from multiple industry, government and grower sources and should be recognised as best estimates only.