

# Protecting Agriculture Through Innovation and Science

7:00am – 8:45am, Wednesday 11 October 2023

Speakers' Hall, Queensland Parliament House, Corner of George and Alice Streets, Brisbane

## Researcher biographies

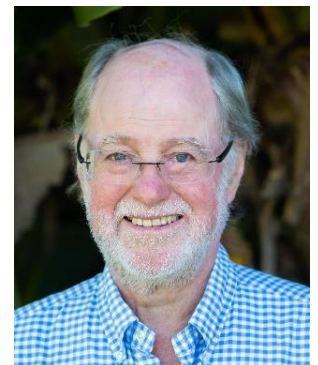
### **Associate Professor Shahla Hosseini Bai – Associate Professor in Agricultural Ecology and Theme Leader of Ecosystem Carbon Futures, Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security, Griffith University**

Shahla Hosseini Bai is an Associate Professor in agricultural ecology and is the theme leader of Ecosystem Carbon Futures at Griffith University. Her research is centred on food security and she is passionate to apply innovative technologies for sustainable food production. Associate Professor Bai brings over 16 years' experience in working with key industry partners across the broad agricultural sector including tree crops in Australia and Pacific. She has published over 130 peer reviewed journal articles and she currently leads a transdisciplinary research portfolio to develop imaging technologies for food and agriculture and develop innovative carbon negative fertilisers for various cropping systems.



### **Distinguished Professor James Dale, AC FTSE – Leader, Banana Biotechnology Program, Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy, Faculty of Science, Queensland University of Technology**

Professor Dale leads the large Banana Biotechnology Program at Queensland University of Technology to enhance bananas through genetic modification and more recently gene editing. We have had four GM projects through initial field trial selection including “Golden bananas” in both Australia and Uganda and Fusarium wilt TR4 resistant bananas in Australia. We have recently submitted applications to OGTR and FSANZ for commercial release of QCAV-4, a genetically modified Cavendish banana with TR4 resistance, a world first. Our most advanced non-GM gene edited Cavendish bananas are at our field site in Darwin where they will be field trialled for resistance to TR4.



### **Doctor Narelle Manzie – Research Fellow and Scientific Manager, Centre for Horticultural Science, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, The University of Queensland**

Dr Narelle Manzie is currently the Science Research Manager for the ARC HUB for sustainable crop protection operating within the Queensland Agricultural Alliance for Food Innovation (QAAFI) at the University of Queensland. This Hub is focused on developing an environmentally friendly biopesticide for crop protection. Narelle comes from a background in genetics, primarily in human immune responses, completing her D. Phil at the Wellcome Trust Center for Human Genetics (University of Oxford), and has spent the last five years transitioning to coopt a plants natural defence mechanism to protect the worlds food supply from pests and pathogens. Narelle draws on her experience working in Government, university and industry sectors to oversee and manage these projects integrating all aspects from research to policy and social licencing.

