FAR AUSTRALIA

BIOLOGICAL BENCHMARKING

an independent biological evaluation network

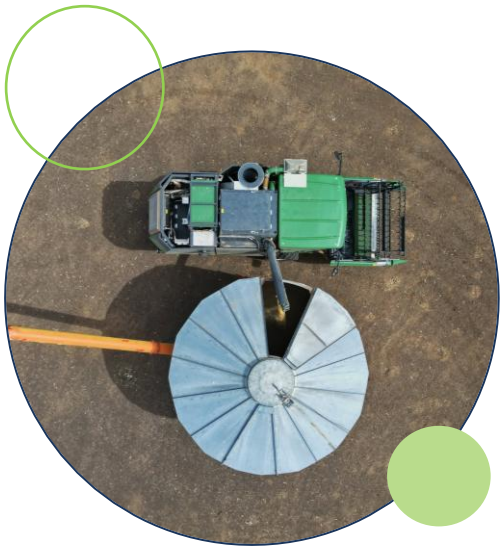
March 2026– Protocol

SOWING THE SEED FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

An Industry Innovations (II) initiative

Industry Innovations
leading the way to a brighter grains industry

BIOLOGICAL BENCHMARKING- FIRST IN ITS FIELD



Biological Benchmarking, developed by FAR Australia, is building on the successful pilot program launched in 2025. This trial series looks to independently evaluate biological crop protection and productivity-enhancing products under Australian conditions. As interest in sustainable farming practices grows, so too does the demand for reliable data on the performance of these products. This initiative aims to provide side-by-side comparisons of new biological options against conventional synthetic controls to support confident decision-making by growers and advisers.

It is:

- **independent**
- **scientifically robust and replicated**
- **aligned with real-world agronomic practice**
- **focused on productivity, sustainability, and profitability**

Collaborating Industry Stakeholders

This program is designed for biological product developers, distributors, agronomists, private consultants, and farming groups seeking to better understand the performance and positioning of biological products and demonstrate them to the wider industry.

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BACKGROUND

FAR Australia has been working with agrichemical and biological developers for over six years to help bring innovative, non-synthetic products to the grains industry. Through targeted trials, FAR has built a reputation for delivering independent and practical insights into product performance under Australian growing conditions.

With increased availability and global interest in biological inputs—from microbial inoculants to plant defense stimulants and biopesticides—there is a growing need for rigorous testing. The Biological Benchmarking series provides that platform, offering clarity and confidence in a rapidly evolving product space.

The Biological Benchmarking trials test biological products designed to boost plant health, improve nutrient efficiency, and reduce disease or pest pressure. Trials will be conducted in parallel with conventional management strategies to enable fair, comparable evaluations of efficacy, yield benefit, and economic return.

Submissions from biological manufacturers, consultants, and resellers will be benchmarked against standard synthetic controls, with data made available to partners, FAR Australia subscribers, and via FAR's website.

This initiative allows biological products to be evaluated under identical field conditions to synthetic standards, accelerating industry understanding and adoption of effective biological solutions.

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OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To generate independent, high-quality trial data on the performance of biological products aimed at improving crop health and productivity in cropping systems, with comparisons to conventional synthetic strategies across key High and Medium Rainfall Zone (HRZ & MRZ) environments.

Individual objectives specific to the trial are:

- To evaluate the efficacy of biological products (e.g. biostimulants, microbial inoculants, biopesticides) in promoting plant health, disease suppression, and/or yield response.
- To benchmark biological treatments against conventional synthetic standards across different HRZ and MRZ environments.
- To assess the consistency of biological product performance across long- and short-season cropping regions.
- To provide an independent platform for manufacturers and resellers to test new biological technologies prior to commercial release.
- To allow pre-commercial biological products to be entered under a FAR Australia code, with identity disclosed upon commercial launch.

LOCATIONS & CULTIVARS

Gnarwarre, VIC	**Lower South East, SA**
BigRed (feed wheat) & Neo CL (barley)	*Triple 2 (feed wheat) & Neo CL (barley)*
Wallendbeen, NSW	**Frankland River, WA**
Scepter (AH wheat)	*Kinsei (Noodle wheat) & Minotaur (barley)*

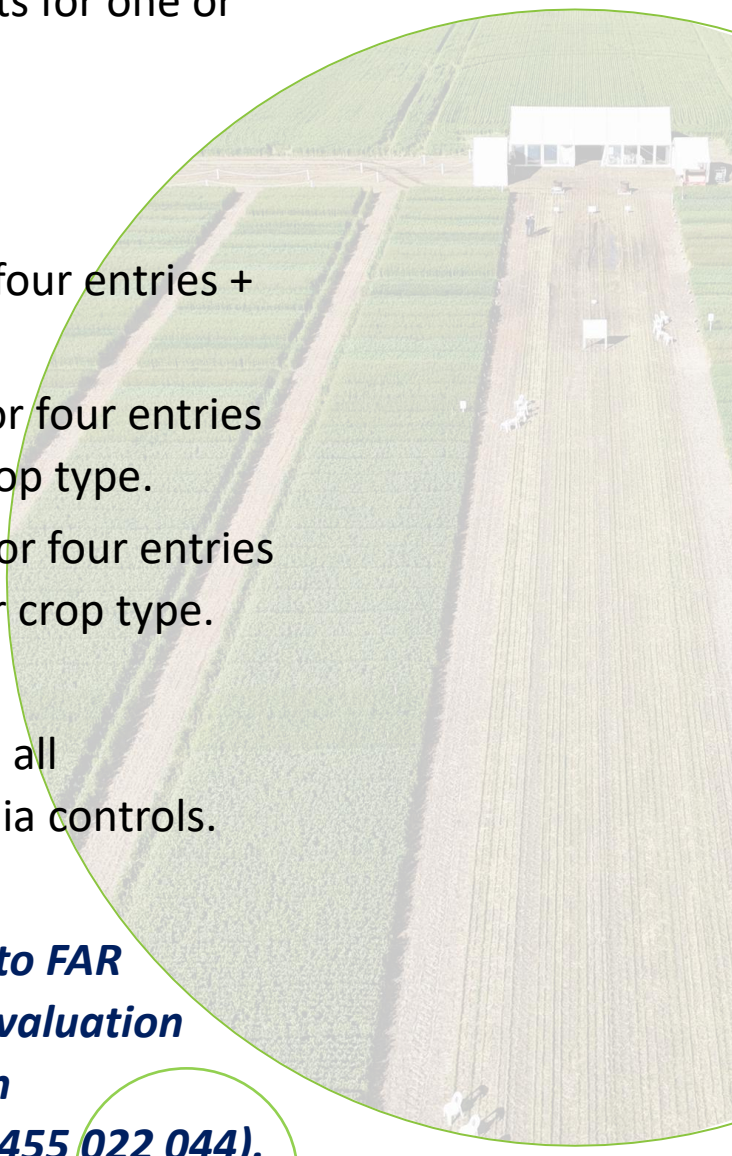
ASSESSMENT PROFILE

Standard assessments will include starting soil analysis, NDVI (minimum three key timings), disease baseline (full assessment if treatment differences are produced), canopy photography, biomass (maturity), harvest index, thousand seed weight and grain yield and quality.

FAR Australia understands that biological products encompass a wide range of uses and therefore **assessment methods can be tailored to each product's intended mode of action and nominated benefit.** Any requested changes to the assessment profile will be accommodated on the basis that substituted assessments replace components already included in the standard protocol.

COSTS

Manufacturers are invited to submit biological product strategies based on up to two application timings. Entries are based on supplying a minimum of two (or alternatively four) treatments for one or more of the four trial locations.



The cost would be

- $3737 for two entries or $6002 for four entries + GST for each trial location per crop.
- $7474 or $12,003 + GST if the two or four entries were placed at two trial sites per crop type.
- $14,948 or 24,007 + GST if the two or four entries were placed at all four trial sites per crop type.

A report will be provided that included all treatments entries and the FAR Australia controls.

Should you wish to invest in entries into FAR Australia's Biological Benchmarking evaluation network, please contact Darcy Warren darcy.warren@faraustralia.com.au (0455 022 044).

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