

In May 2023, Sprout Tasmania, a Tasmanian not-for-profit, conducted their second small scale producer survey with producers from across the state. The survey findings are used to provide a profile of this important sector, what its challenges are and its future needs and how the sector can be best supported by Sprout, Governments of all levels and philanthropy. This infographic gives you high-level highlights. The survey report provides the details and analysis behind the highlights.





We reviewed, refined, and tested the survey



We included new questions to capture the impact of inflation



We disseminated the survey through our newsletter data base, promoted it on social media and via newspapers and radio interviews



Many of our allies supported the survey by sharing it through their own networks



We 'cleaned' the data and analysed 114 survey responses

## THE PROFILE OF SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS IN TASMANIA



Farmers are equally split across gender

20% = 55+ 30% = 35-44 20% = 18-34



930/0 have year 12 or higher education levels

They farm in 28 of 29 local government areas

Qo



**29**% are in the startup phase of their farming

26º/o are in the growth phase of their farming

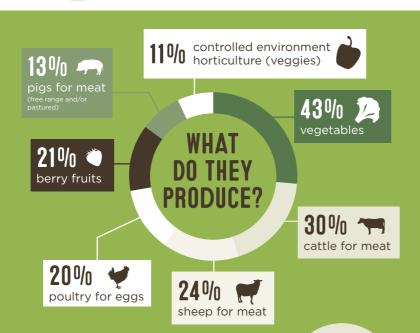




employ casuals in their businesses

have **mortgages** on their land





## IMPACTS OF INFLATION ON SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS





OF SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS SAID INFLATION WAS THEIR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

- 1 in 3 increased prices to customers
- Added input costs increased 10% or more for 2/3 producers
- Sales and customer numbers were not stable for around 50% of small scale producers
- 12% experienced a decrease in sales

## WHO ARE THEIR **CUSTOMERS?**



Hospitality



Retailers



**26**% Farmers



**25**% Farmgate



Via online



collective



Wholesalers



Via subscription How do they farm now and how would they like to farm in the future?

CURRE	NT FL	FUTURE	
61%	Regenerative agriculture	<b>68</b> º/o	
<b>50</b> %	Organic in principle	<b>52</b> <sup>0</sup> / <sub>0</sub>	
<b>7</b> º/0	Organic certified	140/0	
<b>28</b> º/o	Pastured	<b>24</b> <sup>0</sup> / <sub>0</sub>	
<b>28</b> º/o	Free range	<b>24</b> <sup>0</sup> / <sub>0</sub>	
<b>15</b> %	Agroecological	19%	
110/0	Conventional	40/0	

# WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES?

## IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS...

íίĺ	Inflation/costs (fuel costs 21%)	<b>42</b> 0/0
O	Business/financial viability	<b>38</b> %
	Weather/rainfall	31%
<b>G</b> i <sup>‡</sup>	Climate events (e.g. floods, severe storms, drought)	<b>25</b> %
<b>S</b>	Access to capital/ financial support (grants and loans)	<b>25</b> %
<u> </u>	Government regulation	210/0

IN T	IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS		
ííí	Inflation/costs	49%	
0	Business/financial viability	47%	
<b>~</b> 7	Economic uncertainty	32%	
— Gj <sup>‡</sup>	Climate events	28%	
<u>^</u>	Government regulation	27%	
•	Weather/rainfall	<b>25</b> %	
	Access to capital/	220/2	

financial support

(grants and loans)

### WHAT SUPPORT DO **TASMANIAN SMALL-SCALE** PRODUCERS NEED TO **GROW AND THRIVE?**

- Recognition of the sector and its value by government and industry
- Ready access to finance and
- Building resilience in farming systems to prepare for climate change impacts
- Skill building to improve productivity, soil health and regenerating landscapes; business

### WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR SMALL SCALE **PRODUCERS IN TASMANIA?**

- Develop a small-scale producer strategy that addresses challenges and supports the sector growth for
- Create grant funding specifically
- Simplify land use planning and regulation
- Invest in the training needs of the
- Marketing and consumer education around seasonality and the value of the sector

### WHAT CAN PHILANTHROPIC **ORGANISATIONS DO** TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS?

- Create grant funding specifically
- Invest in the training needs of the
- Support and amplify the advocacy for the sector

### WHAT CAN SPROUT TASMANIA DO TO SUPPORT SMALL SCALE PRODUCERS IN TASMANIA?

Resoundingly the sector values the role of Sprout Tasmania. Small scale producers ask for the focus to be on:



Advocacy about the sectors challenges and needs to all levels of government: continue to be the sector voice



Creating more opportunities for networking and sharing skills and knowledge



Working with the government and philanthropic sectors to increase their support of small scale producers



Workshops and training to build skills



Explore a sector research partnership with UTas and TIA



For more information please contact Sprout Tasmania.