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Almond Nutrition Management **RMONPRO** Piangil, Victoria

LawrieCo Nutrition Program Builds Soil Carbon & Boosts Almond Yield

‘Soil organic carbon is very important for us. Our soil carbon has increased from 0.3% to 1% over 5 years. We have the highest yielding almonds of any commercial Australian orchards. Biological inputs to improve our soils are 20% of our Nutrition budget.’ **Dr Narender Pathania**

With 1600 Ha of almonds under his management, Narender is now a leader in almond productivity. He has achieved industry premium yields with annual new plantings of 400 Ha.

When asked to share his success methods, Narender replied. ‘It all starts with Humic Acid.’

Historically, soil organic carbon was not a limiting factor on Mallee sands typical of the soil type where many Australian almond orchards are established. Records of soils from Walpeup DPI Research station back in 1920 matches the current undisturbed virgin Mallee soils, where the soil organic carbon levels were tested to be 2.3% - 2.8%.

Following a century of various farm management methods that have degraded soil organic carbon, Rmonpro Piangil property has increased the soil organic carbon from 0.3% in 2014 to 1% in 2020.



RMONPRO ALMOND ORCHARDS

Productivity development at Rmonpro Almond Orchards recognises and actively manages for the rebuilding of soil organic carbon; biological products are now at least 20% of the Rmonpro budgeted fertiliser spend.

Soil testing is used as a guide for amendments like Lime, Gypsum, Magnesium, Carbon and other minerals. The pH balance of minerals is important for soil microbes and is considered essential for nutrition management planning.

'On a 219 Ha site of new almond plantings last year, we dipped our trees pre-planting in a blend of LawrieCo products including SureCROP VAM and BioMAX Kelp. BioMAX Soluble Humate Granules were then spread at a rate of 200 kg/Ha on poor sandy soils. My trees in those areas are exceptionally good, 50% bigger than we would expect them to be!' **Dr Narender Pathania**

11 MONTH OLD ALMOND TREE



3 YEAR OLD ALMOND TREE



Rmonpro has completed trial work over several years with LawrieCo NutriMAX Phoscal and is happy to recommend its use. NutriMAX Phoscal has contributed to an almond yield increase; to yields that lead in the commercial almond industry.

'Phoscal is the No.1 product in our system; we apply 10 litres per hectare annually on our almonds.'

LawrieCo Area Sales Manager, Rodney Capon has been supporting Narender with recommendations and utilisation of various Bio-Fertilisers due to his extensive background in regenerative agriculture technology. This coupled with Rod's hands on farm management experience continues to assist in improving future developments.

LawrieCo will launch its **Soil Carbon Regeneration System** in September 2020. This encompasses the regenerative agriculture methods and carbon offsets reward opportunity for farm managers. LawrieCo Director Adrian Lawrie nominates "The key reward for primary producers adopting LawrieCo's Soil Carbon Regeneration System will always be from increased productivity. Additionally, under the Federal Government Emissions Reduction Fund, landholders have a further opportunity to register to receive payments for increasing Soil Organic Carbon levels."