



D/Prof James Dale AO FTSE

Director, Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, Queensland University of Technology

Distinguished Professor James Dale leads the Banana Research Program at QUT focussed on the development of biofortified and disease resistant bananas. He has published more than 120 research papers, reviews and book chapters and is an inventor on 10 granted patents or patent applications. He is leading a major international Grand Challenges in Global Health Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop biofortified bananas for East Africa. The project is a close collaboration between QUT and the National Agricultural Research Organisation of Uganda. The first Australian GM banana field trials commenced in early 2009 and the Ugandan “elite line” selection trial in 2014. There are already multiple lines with greater than the target level of pro-vitamin A. The target release date for Uganda is 2021. Prof Dale is also leading two major programs to develop bananas resistant to Fusarium wilt/Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 and Banana bunchy top.

In 2004, Prof Dale was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for services to agricultural biotechnology. In 2008, he was appointed as QUT’s second Distinguished Professor. In 2014, he was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.