The NT mango industry has received a significant boost in the 2002/03 Budget, with a Government officer seconded to the multi-million dollar industry to help provide high quality technical assistance.

Primary Industry Minister Paul Henderson said the industry development officer will help strengthen the NT Mango Industry Association by helping it take up new technology.

"This initiative is one of several NT Government measures to provide high quality technical assistance to the Top End mango industry," Mr Henderson said.

Other mango industry initiatives include:

- Organising a series of technology transfer activities for the mango industry in both Darwin and Katherine. This series of workshops is a joint program with the industry groups and NT University;
- Providing advice on fruit maturity development with published heat sums tables and crop timing forecasts to assist with seasonal planning and logistics;
- Being both a major sponsor and actively involved in organising the 2002 AMIA National Mango Conference.

The NT Government will continue to provide funding and support to other primary industry associations including the NT Livestock Exporters, the NT Irrigation Grain and Fodder Producers Association, the NT Buffalo Industry Association, the Central Australian Camel Industry and the NT Horticultural Association.

Mr Henderson added that an estimated $91,000 would be spent on upgrading the Post Entry Quarantine facility at the Berrimah Agricultural Research Centre.

"This will allow Territory producers to import plants from overseas into Darwin," he said.

"The facility was closed down last year because it was not up to cyclone code and did not meet all the requirements of the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service.

"The funding will allow the facility, which was formerly owned by the Commonwealth, to be brought up to operating standards."

Mr Henderson said the Territory Government will also maintain funding for animal disease surveillance programs.

"In order to maintain access to export markets, Australia must be able to demonstrate disease free status from TB, foot and mouth disease and mad cow disease."