



Innovate to Grow program: Agrifood

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on innovative ideas in agriculture and food and exploring how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or idea.

Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's agriculture and food industry, but taking an R&D idea and turning this into reality can sometimes be a daunting prospect.

Our free self-paced 10-week program will build your skills to help you refine your innovation idea and turn this into a R&D opportunity.

Register today

Applications close: 15 October 2023

Program starts: 2 November 2023

csiro.au/agrifood

Key program outcomes

Personalised support to refine your idea: We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

Confidential feedback: All submissions through the program portal will receive prompt expert feedback.

Mentor: You will be paired with a researcher from CSIRO or a university to help connect you with the relevant specialists.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers at CSIRO and universities, domain experts, funding professionals and other SMEs.

Key things covered include:

- Identifying your innovation opportunities
- Refining your value proposition
- Understanding the R&D viability
- Helping you build your business case
- Providing guidance on how to prepare a strong funding application

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3-4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires. The program schedule has been modified to incorporate a break during the holiday period, and an extra webinar session has been added.

Week 1 (Official start date, 2 November)

Workshop (4.5 hours)

Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and mentor.

Weeks 2–10

Self-paced innovation program (2–3 hours per week)

Participants explore opportunities to grow their business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

Who can attend

Participants working on an idea in agrifood. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Complementary proteins
- Meat and meat processing
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Livestock
- Beverage and/or fermentation
- Food product manufacturing
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- Business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- A business with an R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to agrifood
- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN
Please note: Sole traders and Partnerships are currently not eligible for the program

Other considerations:

- Businesses working on ideas that can be assisted by the Missions supporting the program are highly encouraged to apply
- Any other information provided to support your application
- Have a clear need to develop your knowledge and skills in R&D

'Innovate to Grow really made research accessible. Before the program, I thought, there was no way that a tiny company like mine could work with CSIRO or a university. Now it has been demystified!'

– Amanda Falconer, Founder of Bestie Kitchen

CSIRO awards places to businesses based on the strength of the application, and a clear interest and capacity to pursue R&D. We also include participants from a variety of industry sub-sectors and regions.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using Practera's online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

For further information

csiro.au/agrifood

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