



Innovate to Grow program: Agrifood WA

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) working on solutions for Agrifood in Western Australia to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance their project.

Build your R&D idea

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) play a key role in growing Australia's Agrifood 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: 13 Mar 2023

Program starts: 4 Apr 2023

csiro.au/agrifoodWA

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 (~2 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 4 April)

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.

Program participants will also be invited to an in-person networking event at the conclusion of this course.

Who can attend

Participants working in Agrifood.

This can be in any sub-sector including;

- Meat and meat product manufacturing
- Agriculture and fishing support services
- Aquaculture
- Livestock
- Beverage manufacturing
- Food product manufacturing
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- Based in Western Australia.
- A business operating in WA.
- Business classified as small to medium (<200 employees).
- A business currently, or in the early stages of, exploring R&D opportunities for their business and have an idea to work on throughout the course.
- Currently working in the Agrifood sector (or have identified a new opportunity relevant to Agrifood).

Other considerations:

- Any other information provided to support your application.
- Have a clear need to develop your 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

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Innovate to Grow: Agrifood WA is supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.



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**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**