



Innovate to Grow: Aquaculture

Applications are open for a free 8-week program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) developing new products or technologies in aquaculture. The program supports participants to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or ideas.

Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's innovation capability, but having the right support is critical to success.

Our free 8-week program will help build your skills and networks so you can learn how to advance your idea with R&D.

Apply today

Applications close: 16 August 2026

Program starts: 10 September 2026

www.csiro.au/aquaculture

Key program outcomes

Refine your idea: We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

Confidential feedback: Meet with a CSIRO facilitator to discuss program exercises and business challenges.

Coaching: Learn more about research projects and get connected to an expert with help from an R&D coach.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers and other SMEs.

Key program outputs include how to:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of your business idea
- Build your R&D project plan
- Develop your project roadmap and funding strategy
- Review your business idea and create a list of priorities and actions.

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Virtual onboarding session, pre-workshop video and reading materials.

Program start (10 September 2026)

Workshop (3.5 hours)

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

Weeks 1–8

Program timeline (2–3 hours per week)

You'll explore opportunities to grow your business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Australia who are developing new products or technologies in aquaculture. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Breeding
- Health
- Nutrition
- Production systems and optimisation
- Digital and AI
- Sustainability and circular agri-aquaculture
- Packaging
- Enabling Indigenous-led aquaculture

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Australia that is registered with an ABN
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to any of the subsectors listed.

Please note: Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible.

Other considerations:

- A strong alignment to the purpose of the program
- A clear desire to investigate a R&D project.

Hear from a previous program participant

'Innovate to Grow helped me to clarify the real status of my innovation and better understand the R&D pathway required to progress it. It also helped me identify that my project is not simply a product-development issue, but requires regulatory clarification, claims discipline, independent validation, a funding strategy and a staged evidence pathway. The program gave me a more structured and realistic framework for deciding what needs to happen next.'

– Rebecca Parlett, Bio Tribute Systems

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using [Practera's](#) online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

For further information

Send an email to InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au or visit www.csiro.au/aquaculture