



Innovate to Grow program: Agrifood WA

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.

Apply today

Applications close: 24 March 2024

Program starts: 11 April 2024

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 a relevant specialist.

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

Key program outputs include how to:

- Create a strong research question for your idea
- Assess the value of your innovation
- Work out your collaboration options
- Compose a high impact R&D business case
- Prepare a funding application

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 11 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 meeting in Perth on 30 May 2024.

This meeting will be held following the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's 'Turning the Dial' event, which program participants can attend at a discounted rate.

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Western Australia who are working on an idea 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):

- A business based and operating in Western Australia
- A 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, partnerships and Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible. Researchers working at universities can apply as a mentor but not a participant.

Other considerations:

- 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 selects businesses based on the strength of the application, and a clear interest and capacity to pursue R&D.

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

For further information

Innovate to Grow
InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au
csiro.au/agrifoodWA



Department of
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