



Innovate to Grow: Food Innovation

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on innovative technologies or solutions in the food industry.

Build your R&D idea

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

Our free self-paced 10-week program will build your skills and networks so you can learn how to advance your idea with R&D.

Apply today

Applications close: 25 August 2024

Program starts: 12 September 2024

csiro.au/foodI2G

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 questionnaire.

Week 1 (Official start date, 12 September)

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 based and operating in Australia who are working on food innovation. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Beverage manufacturing
- Food production
- Traditional and complimentary proteins
- Bio-manufacturing incl. precision fermentation
- Sustainable processing
- Value-adding processes
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Australia that is registered with an ABN and ACN/ICN
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to food and beverage innovation

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 focused me on what I needed to concentrate on for growing our business in the next 12 months. It also provided me with lots of practical experiences of other [SMEs] that I learned from.'

– Joshua Poke, Tasmanian Oyster Company

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

For further information

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