

Overview: Building the farm of the future

The University of Sydney brings together researchers from a range of disciplines to tackle some of the most exciting, leading-edge science in the fields of food and agricultural technology. Drawing on Australia's global competitive advantage in food and agriculture, and the University's longstanding position as a centre of research excellence in the field, we are now concentrating and amplifying our engagement and networking with industry, government and community partners.

A distinctive attribute of our approach is the application of digital technology solutions to agriculture, specifically in relation to the disruption of traditional methods of agricultural production and supply chain operations. The University of Sydney has leading research teams investigating how on-farm agriculture can be further optimised along with supply chain decommodification. We believe this has the potential to help producers through substantial intensification of agriculture and higher population density in rural communities if exploited appropriately.

We intend to work with our partners to create models of how agricultural products are marketed. This includes new R&D developments to support peer-to-peer (producer-to-consumer) interactions which have the potential to reshape traditional grocery and supermarket operations. We foresee these models being in place in the next 5-10 years.

The Sydney Institute of Agriculture, a newly launched flagship initiative bringing together our expertise in agriculture and food, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research - Enterprise and Engagement), invite partners with strategic or operational problems in the food/agtech space to contact us.

We are open to collaborations around any problem set, but we offer a particular value proposition in the following fields where we boast world-class research capabilities:

- **Digital Farm: Sensors, Field Robotics, Data Analytics and Precision Agriculture** (contact points: Professor Salah Sukkarieh and Associate Professor Brett Whelan)
- **Future Food: Health, Safety, Quality and Consumer Compliance** (contact points: Professor Robyn McConchie, Professor Fariba Dehghani, Dr Kim-Yen Phan-Thien)

- **New Genes and Genetic Transformation for Agriculture and Food** (contact point: Professor Peter Sharp)
- **Soil Modelling and Management** (contact points: Professor Budiman Minasny, Professor Iain Young)

Each of the above areas is accompanied by detailed capability statements. You can also read our case studies and cross-cutting themes, and the University's research engagement strategy.

Benefits of working with us

By working with the University of Sydney you can tap into some of the best researchers in the field to help you solve the challenges that your business is facing each day.

You will also be able to access our state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment, thus alleviating the high cost of research and development.

Furthermore, by working with the University, you may be eligible for Australian Government R&D tax incentives. For more information please visit the Australian Taxation Office website.



AgTech and Food: Industry Capabilities

Farms and facilities

As a Group of Eight (Go8) university, the University of Sydney is well resourced with research infrastructure, equipment and labs. The main metropolitan campus at Australian Technology Park and Camperdown is the administrative hub for SIA, from where world-leading research in precision agriculture, soil science and field robotics is led.

The Camden Campus (1500ha farmland) provides the focus for internationally acclaimed research in animal agriculture, precision livestock farming, robotic dairies, plant breeding, and carbon, water and food. The Narrabri farm complex (2500ha) has a focus on research to drive the advancement of grains and pulses, and enables commercial-scale experiments to be run on crop, pasture and livestock systems in collaboration with industry. Arthursleigh property (6,377ha) at Marulan used for animal agriculture and robotics. The Spring Ridge property (2000ha) on the NSW Liverpool Plains has mixed farming and field experiments.



Collaborative funding opportunities

We can work with you to access the following government grants that may compliment your research and development expenditure:

Innovation Connections

- Provides small and medium sized businesses with access to expert advice to address knowledge gaps, and collaborate with the research sector in developing new ideas with commercial potential.
- Matched funding up to \$50k. R&D tax benefits. SMEs \$1.5m-\$100m turnover. Be in operation for at least 3 years. Open all year round.

Global Connections Fund

- Bridging Grants provides a program of assistance that targets early stage proof of concept, product development and market testing, innovation and commercialisation activities.
- Matched funding between \$25k-\$50k. Partnership with international SMEs. Can't be used for basic science research.

Regional Collaborations Programme

- Provide funding to collaborate with regional and international partners on solutions to shared regional challenges within the Asia-Pacific regions.
- Needs at least two non-Australian partner economies and matched 1:1 cash funding

ARC Linkage Program

- Promotes long-term strategic research partnerships and collaboration between universities and the private sector.
- Prestigious scheme. Matched funding between \$50k-\$300k/year for 2-5 years. Industry partner cash contribution minimum 25%. Open all year round.

Cooperative Research Centres program

- Focuses on industry-led and outcome-focused collaborative research partnerships between companies and research organisations.
- Matched funding up to \$1m/year for 3 years. Can be cash and in-kind contributions. Two rounds of funding each year.

For further enquiries contact:

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