



The Metro Vancouver region's Agritech Innovation Ecosystem



A number of organizations are successfully supporting the growth of the sector.

Agritech-specific programs and initiatives:

Agritech Ramp-up Pilot Program, delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation, supports the growth of BC's agritech sector through the provision of a cohort-based business support program.

Agritech Concierge Program (provincial) provides government support for agritech businesses to grow, diversify, access new markets and attract investment opportunities.

Agritech Grant Program (provincial) is a \$7.5 million program providing one-time funding to BC-based agritech or technology companies, agriculture producers or agrifood companies. The funding

supports the increase of domestic food production and stimulates the development and testing of technologies.

AgriScience Program (federal) aims to accelerate the pace of innovation by providing funding and support for pre-commercial science activities and cutting-edge research that benefits the agriculture and agri-food sector and Canadians.

Foresight Cleantech Accelerator (agriNEXT) is an ag-specific accelerator and network hub established to drive development and scaling of Canadian cleantech ventures that address the environmental and competitiveness pain points of our agriculture industry.



Agri-tech organizations benefit from regional strengths in high tech, provincial strengths in agriculture, and Canada-wide support programs:

The National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) is Canada's leading innovation assistance program for small- and medium-sized businesses helping to build innovation capacity by providing financial assistance, advisory services and connections to the best business and R&D expertise in Canada. Participants do not need to qualify for funding in order to receive other services.

Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax incentives are deployed to encourage Canadian businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct R&D in BC and Canada.

Sustainable Development Technology Canada Clean Tech Fund provides funding for promising clean technology development and demonstration projects that are start-ups or scale-ups and includes an agriculture-specific stream.

BC Fast Pilot Program, delivered in partnership between Innovate BC and NRC IRAP, helps regional small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) design, build and operate a pilot plant or small demonstration of their technology in real-world conditions.

Support for agri-tech initiatives through Metro Vancouver's world-class post-secondary ecosystem include **entrepreneurship@UBC**, **UBC's Creative Destruction Lab**, **SFU VentureLabs**, **SFU 4D Labs**, and SFU's recently announced **Agri-tech Innovation Sandbox (AGIS)**.

29% of all agri-tech firms in the region have received some form of grant funding in the past 5 years.



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