

Agri-foodtech

The Metro Vancouver region is emerging as a hub for agri-foodtech innovation, where diverse producers, food processors, and tech firms are developing solutions to boost efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. The strong agricultural base, advanced tech ecosystem, and access to global markets position the region to lead in tackling food production challenges like labour shortages and climate change.

87+

agri-foodtech companies in the
Metro Vancouver region

(PITCHBOOK)

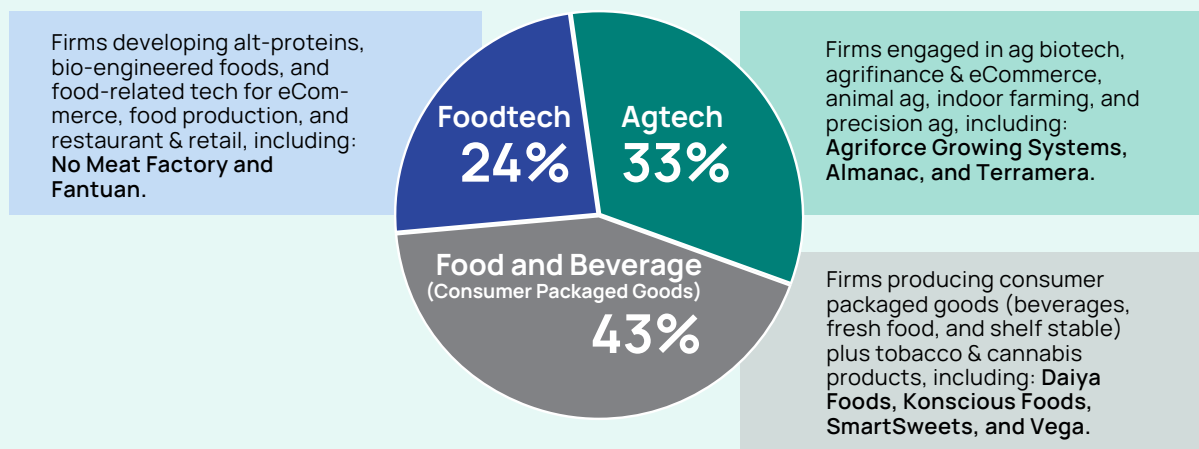
\$1.2+
billion USD

invested in agri-foodtech
firms headquartered in the
region, 2020-2024

(PITCHBOOK)

The region is home to pioneering companies across agri-foodtech

Percentage of agri-foodtech firms in the region



SOURCE: PITCHBOOK

The Metro Vancouver Region's Investment Opportunities

Agri-foodtech providers can tap into a broad base of customers across production, processing, and product development in the Metro Vancouver region and the adjacent Fraser Valley Regional District.

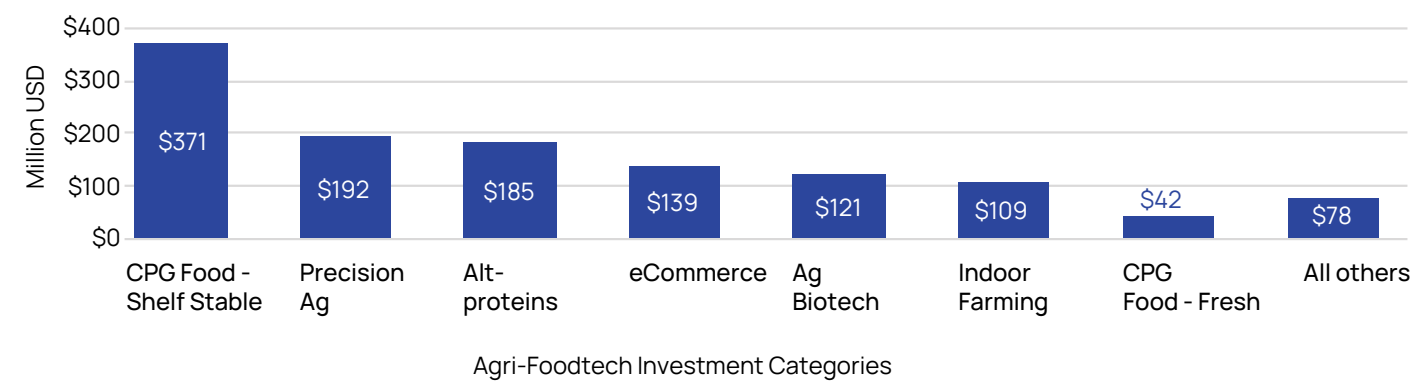
- **Primary agriculture and controlled environment agriculture (CEA):** The region produces fruits, field crops, and greenhouse vegetables, and is a major dairy and poultry centre. Farms and CEA operations can benefit from automation for harvesting and sorting, AI-driven crop health monitoring, precision irrigation systems, and advanced food safety and traceability solutions.
- **Food processing and packaging:** Much of BC's processing and distribution activity is clustered here with demand for innovations that increase output, reduce waste, improve energy efficiency, and enhance overall competitiveness.
- **Product development:** Agri-foodtech firms can tap into local strengths in AI, robotics, and biotechnology. For those developing plant-based protein alternatives, upcycled-ingredient foods, and health products such as nutritional supplements, the region offers a sizeable, diverse market for pilot-scale launches, and global trade links for export growth.

The region’s innovation centers are fostering collaboration between industry, academia, and government

In 2022, Simon Fraser University (SFU), with financial backing from Pacific Economic Development Canada and the Province of BC, launched the **BC Centre for Agriotech Innovation** in Surrey to foster innovation that will make BC a leader in the agri-food industry. The centre is a collaborative effort with the University of British Columbia, the University of the Fraser Valley, Thompson River University, the University of Victoria, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

The **Food and Beverage Innovation Centre** at the University of British Columbia is a central component of the BC Ministry of Agriculture’s BC Food Hub Network. The centre supports growth and innovation in the food processing industry, particularly efforts aimed at enhancing local food chains and promoting food security and human welfare.

Investments in Agri-foodtech Companies Headquartered in the Region, 2020-2024 (USD, millions)



SOURCE: PITCHBOOK

Incentives and Supports

- **BC Agritech Concierge** provides government wayfinding support for agritech businesses to grow, diversify, access new markets, and attract investment opportunities.
- **B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program** provides cost-shared funding to B.C. farmers to adopt commercially available, labour-saving technologies that improve efficiency, productivity, and profitability across farming operations, delivered by Innovate BC through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
- **Canadian Food Innovation Network** connects investors and agri-foodtech firms with funding and expert support to accelerate innovation and growth in Canada’s food industry.
- **Plant-Based Protein AI Project Funding** supports collaborative projects that integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into Canada’s plant-based food, feed, and ingredient industry. The program, offered by Protein Industries Canada, an industry-led, not-for-profit, value chain organization, aims to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness by leveraging AI technologies across the value chain.
- **Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED)** provides tax incentives to businesses of all sizes and in all sectors to conduct R&D in BC and Canada. It offers tax credits and refunds for eligible R&D expenditures, helping to reduce the financial risk associated with innovation.



Invest Vancouver provides tailored services to help you grow and expand into the region’s market.
Interested in the Metro Vancouver region?
Contact us at info@investvancouver.ca

INVEST
VANCOUVER
A service of **metro**vancouver