

Tech2Farm

September 17, 2025

Continuous Intake

About Alberta Innovates

Innovation is the catalyst for sustainable jobs, economic and community strength, improved health and environmental benefits. [Alberta Innovates](#) leads and accelerates innovation from discovery to use across all sectors in all parts of the province. As Alberta's largest research and innovation agency, we are uniquely positioned to propel great ideas forward to improve the lives of Albertans today and for generations to come.

Alberta Innovates believes the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly representative of the overall diversity of our community. We strive to ensure that all interested and qualified parties have an equitable opportunity to participate and contribute to the ecosystem and that our processes are inclusive.

The projects that our programs invest in are critical to how Alberta Innovates achieves positive impact for Albertans in alignment with the Government of Alberta's Research and Innovation priorities, as expressed in our corporate Business Plan. (See the most recent Business Plan on our [Publications](#) page on our website.) Accordingly, it is essential for project outcomes to align with those of the program.

Tech2Farm is a collaborative initiative between Alberta Innovates' Agriculture and Food Innovation and Scaleup and Growth Accelerator programs. This partnership brings together sector-specific expertise and business growth support to accelerate innovation in Alberta's agri-tech ecosystem. The Agriculture and Food Innovation Program focuses on advancing technologies and practices that enhance productivity, sustainability, and global competitiveness in the agriculture and food sectors. Complementing this, the Scaleup and Growth Accelerator Program supports high-potential startups across all sectors, including agri-tech, in overcoming scaleup barriers such as accessing new markets to grow Alberta companies into major tech firms. Together, these programs aim to drive sustainable economic development, diversify Alberta's economy, and position the province as a leader in agricultural and food technology innovation.

Program Overview

Tech2Farm supports the validation and commercialization of agri-tech innovations through collaborative demonstration projects between Alberta technology companies and global industry leaders. The program builds on the connection between Alberta's agri-food, energy, and climate tech sectors to bring in international expertise and resources to address shared challenges such as food insecurity, waste reduction, and resource efficiency. Projects may include components like smart farms and testing facilities, which support innovation across these interconnected sectors. Alberta Innovates aims to de-risk these projects by providing funding and strategic support throughout the commercialization process.

Operating across key hubs—Alberta, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United Kingdom—Tech2Farm enables global collaboration. Other markets may be considered at our discretion. The ultimate goal is for industry partners to adopt the technology to solve real-world problems, generating customer revenue for Alberta companies.

Tech2Farm aims to:

- Accelerate the commercialization and adoption of innovative agri-tech solutions.
- Facilitate strategic partnerships between global industry leaders and high-potential Alberta scaleups.
- Address key industry challenges, including food security, environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, and labor shortages.
- Strengthen Alberta's position within the global agri-tech innovation ecosystem.

The key outcomes (i.e., measurable effects) the program will accomplish for the benefit of Albertans are:

- The validation and commercialization of innovations that will lead to strong Agriculture and Food sectors in Alberta, one that helps our province become a global leader in environmental, social and governance performance.
- Diversify our economy by supporting high-potential Alberta companies to access new markets.

Funding

This application process provides funding support of up to \$500,000 per project. Within this limit, Alberta Innovates may contribute up to 50% of total eligible project costs, with the remainder to be covered by private, government, or approved in-kind sources.

Project funding from applicants and/or partners may include cash and in-kind contributions, though cash support is strongly preferred. Cash contributions demonstrate market demand and end-user interest, which positively influence project evaluation. Collaboration with other funding agencies is encouraged. There are no strict limits on stacking contributions from multiple sources. However, reliance on uncommitted funding may delay or complicate the contracting process.

Exceptions to the matching requirement or funding cap may be considered at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates. These exceptions will be evaluated based on several factors, including the potential impact of the project, its strategic relevance to the province of Alberta, and whether the applicants represent marginalized communities or sectors.

Eligible Costs

Alberta Innovates will only contribute toward eligible and reasonable project costs incurred after the date of the funding approval letter, provided an Investment Agreement is signed by both Alberta Innovates and the Applicant. Any costs incurred prior to the project start date defined in the Investment Agreement and costs greater than market prices will be deemed ineligible. Additionally, all costs must be incurred between entities operating at arm's length.

Please refer to the Investment Agreement available on the Alberta Innovates website and/or Appendix A in this document for further details on Eligible and Ineligible expenses.

Eligibility

Eligible Tech2Farm projects must involve a two-party collaboration between an Alberta-based company and an industry leader. A smart farm, testing facility, or research partner must also be arranged with a separate party or the industry leader. These projects should focus on commercialization demonstrations that address key agricultural challenges such as food insecurity, waste reduction, and resource efficiency.

To qualify, projects must demonstrate a clear competitive advantage or unique value proposition along with operational scalability, including the capacity to manufacture, deliver, or service at scale, supported by existing or planned infrastructure or partnerships.

Engagement or feedback from potential customers, distributors, or partners—whether in Alberta, across Canada, or internationally—further strengthens the application. Projects should also show awareness of relevant regulatory landscapes and the ability to navigate standards such as food safety, sustainability certifications, and data privacy laws. Strategic partnerships in target markets, and interest in pilot programs, innovation challenges, or trade missions, are also considered valuable.

Applicants must demonstrate financial strength and market readiness, including sufficient runway or investor backing, and access to trade financing or export development resources. Alignment with global sustainability goals and the ability to quantify environmental or social impact in ways that resonate with stakeholders will further enhance project eligibility.

For international product-market fit, applicants should provide evidence of global demand, alignment with market trends, and the adaptability of their product to diverse customer needs.

Applicant Eligibility

Applications are open to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are Alberta-based. Refer to **Appendix C: Alberta SME Determination** to assess whether your company meets the Alberta criteria.

In addition, to qualify for funding, the Applicant must:

- Exist as a corporate person, with up-to-date corporate filings;
- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project, and execute a grant with Alberta Innovates on our standard terms; and
- Not otherwise be prohibited from receiving Alberta Innovates funding, for instance due to a past bad debt or otherwise not be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates or its subsidiaries, InnoTech Alberta and C-FER Technologies.
- Be incorporated in Alberta;
- Be a General Partnership, Limited Partnership or Limited Liability Partnership and registered in Alberta.
- Revenue-generating company with fewer than 100 full-time employees and less than \$25,000,000 annual gross revenue.

Please note: Alberta Innovates may perform corporate, bankruptcy and litigation searches, and conduct other forms of due diligence on the Applicant company and its principals.

Agri-food Industry Leader

Tech2Farm requires a two-party commercialization demonstration partnership between an Alberta-based company and an industry leader.

Eligible Agri-Food industry Leaders are required to:

- Exist as a corporate person, with up-to-date corporate filings.
- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project.
- Be at arm's length from the Applicant (i.e. no legal relationship with the Applicant).
- Provide a letter indicating the Industry Partner's intention to participate in the Project at the time of application.
- Have the financial capability to purchase or enter into a distribution/purchase agreement of the product upon Project completion.
- Show tangible resources committed to the Project.
- Not otherwise be prohibited from receiving Alberta Innovates funding, for instance due to a past bad debt or otherwise not be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates or its subsidiaries, InnoTech Alberta and C-FER Technologies.

Note: For partners, collaborators and/or service providers that are **not** post-secondary institutions, Alberta Innovates may perform corporate, bankruptcy and litigation searches, and other forms of due diligence.

Smart Farm / Testing Facility/Research Partner

Tech2Farm requires a confirmed testing facility location for the commercialization demonstration project.

Eligible Testing Facilities are required to:

- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project.
- Provide the service(s) and/or product(s) at reasonable market rates.
- Be at arm's length from the Applicant (i.e., no legal relationship with the Applicant).
- Provide a letter indicating the Testing Facilities intention to participate in the Project at the time of the application.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- Align with the objectives of Tech2Farm;
- Technology being developed by the Project must be within TRL levels 8 to 9;
- Be stepped with critical “go/no go” milestones;
- Be completed within two years;
- Matching contribution of 50% (cash or in-kind) by the company applicant is expected;
- Comply with other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time.

Project Expenses

Appendix A outlines the eligible and ineligible expenses for projects in Tech2Farm.

How to Apply

Tech2Farm consists of three phases as described below. Expressions of interest are accepted on a continuous basis. The timeline of each phase is project-specific and depends on the timely submission of the required forms at each phase of the process. Please note that submitting to any of the following phases does not constitute a funding commitment from Alberta Innovates.

PHASE 1: Expression of Interest

Companies that have a strong industry match may submit an Expression of Interest via our SmartSimple application portal. If you don't have a strong industry match, please refer to our Scaleup GAP Industry Connections support on the next page.

- The Project Team will review all confirmed matches and potential project information.
- Companies must have a confirmed match and obtain an Industry Letter of Support.
- The review process is highly competitive and only the highest-quality projects will be invited to submit a Full Project Proposal and be considered for funding.
- Companies are highly encouraged to reach out to the Project Team before submitting the Expression of Interest.
- If the review is positive, a recommendation to invite to Full Proposal will be made to senior management, and the company may be invited to submit a Full Project Proposal.
- Companies that do not receive an invitation may be redirected to other supports and services.

PHASE 2: Full Proposal Invitation

Companies that obtain a positive recommendation are invited to submit a Full Project Proposal.

- This Phase is **by invitation only**.
- The Project Team will provide assistance to complete the application template.
- The Company applicant will apply via our SmartSimple granting portal.
- The proposal will be reviewed via the Alberta Innovates due diligence process. This will include a review of your company's business stability.
- If the review is positive, a funding recommendation will be made to senior management for funding. The recommendation may include adjustments to the funding request and/or funding conditions.

PHASE 3: Agreement

Successful applicants will execute an agreement with Alberta Innovates to proceed with the Project.

The Agreement will include details regarding:

- Reporting on progress to milestones and budget on an agreed timeline during the term of the Agreement; and
- Reporting on progress to outcomes on an agreed to timeline during and following the term of the Agreement.
- Project payments are based on milestone achievement and progress reporting.

Scaleup GAP Industry Connections Support

Interested Applicants without an Industry Partner can utilize a free resource through the Alberta Innovates Scaleup and Growth Accelerator Program (“Scaleup GAP”) delivered by **SVG Ventures THRIVE**. This optional resource provides agri-food companies with access to an expert from SVG Ventures THRIVE (a leading agri-food accelerator) who can provide assistance with a customer discovery opportunity scan, matchmaking exploration, and EOI strengthening support.

Please note that the level of support provided by THRIVE will vary depending on company stage and need. There are no guarantees that this support will lead to any industry connections or a successful Tech2Farm application.

To be suitable for this support, SMEs must meet the following parameters:

- Be an agri-food company
- Have majority ownership in Alberta
- Be revenue generating with a minimum \$250,000 in revenue and less than \$25 million in annual gross revenue
- Have fewer than 100 employees
- TRL 8/9

Click [here](#) to access Scaleup GAP Industry Connection Support.



Evaluation Process

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine fit with the Program objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

Performance Measurement

Alberta Innovates invests in research and innovation activities on behalf of Albertans to help build a healthier, more sustainable and prosperous future for the province.

To maximize the impact of these investments, our funding is tied to achievement of results and outcomes. For this reason, Alberta Innovates funds on a milestone completion basis. This means the Applicant must submit a Progress or Final Report and demonstrate sufficient progress before Alberta Innovates advances the next milestone payment.

The Investment Agreement outlines the responsibilities the Applicant has in reporting Project outcomes to Alberta Innovates over the course of the Project and following completion of the Project. Outcomes of the Project may be monitored for up to five years after Project completion, so Alberta Innovates can evaluate the economic, social, health and/or environmental benefits to Alberta resulting from our investments.

Alberta Innovates has a common set of performance metrics it monitors, both at the individual Project level and for the aggregate Program. These metrics may evolve over time.

Terms and Conditions

Once we have evaluated and approved an application for funding, Alberta Innovates will require the Applicant to sign our standard-form Investment Agreement. A copy of the Investment Agreement is available on the Alberta Innovates [website](#) for your reference.

The Investment Agreement sets out in detail the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the various Parties to ensure a successful Project. Alberta Innovates will not provide any funding until the Investment Agreement has been signed by all Parties.

Alberta Innovates will only fund Applicants who have satisfied all eligibility criteria. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee access to funding, and all funding decisions will be made by Alberta Innovates at its sole discretion.

Alberta Innovates will only correspond in writing and provide copies of the Application to the person named in the Application form as the one authorized to speak for the Applicant.

Should you have any questions about this guide or what is expected, please contact Alberta Innovates (see contact information below). Please note that Alberta Innovates may modify this guide from time to time in keeping with any changes to the program.

Contact Information

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APPENDIX A: Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Category	Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Salary and benefits for individuals who are specifically working on the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Overhead costs charged to employee labour rates ✗ Professional training & development ✗ Professional fees unless directly related to the project
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reasonable material costs 	
Capital Assets & Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capital improvements ✓ Capital equipment ✓ Software or information databases <p>Note: Eligible costs will be pro-rated to the project time frame based on the asset's expected economic life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Acquisitions of land or buildings ✗ The undepreciated value of eligible capital costs which extends beyond the project timeframe
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Travel, including mileage, low economy airfare, meals, and accommodation for the purposes of executing the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Passport or immigration fees ✗ Reimbursement for airfare purchased with personal frequent flyer programs ✗ Commuting costs between place of residence and place of employment
Sub-contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Services or products of another entity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Costs associated with applying for government grants and programs ✗ Provisions for contingencies, technical or professional journals ✗ Routine testing and maintenance
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Costs which Alberta Innovates pre-approves in writing as an eligible expense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Collection charges, allowance for interest on debt, fines and penalties ✗ Federal and provincial income taxes, goods and services taxes ✗ Expenses for projects or activities outside the approved project scope

APPENDIX B: Evaluation Criteria

Applications for Tech2Farm will be reviewed based on several broad criteria, with more specific details evident through the information requested in the application form. A summary of those criteria follows:

EOI Evaluation Criteria

EOIs submitted in Phase 3 of the application process will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. **Innovation Opportunity:** The relevance of the proposed work to the target industry / end-user, its advantage relative to current-state, alignment to Alberta Innovates and program priorities, and the technology advancement during the project.
2. **Proposed Commercialization Pathway:** The plan to advance technology towards market readiness and end-user adoption, as well as potential risk mitigation strategies.
3. **Project Overview:** The project design, methodology and team to achieve clearly identified objectives, deliverables and outcomes.
4. **Impact:** The environmental, economic, social, and other proposed impacts of the work to Alberta, and if a market other than Alberta is being validated the impacts to that jurisdiction and to the Alberta-based company.

Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

FPS submitted in Phase 4 of the application process will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Opportunity

- i. **Innovation Opportunity:** The relevance of the proposed work to the target industry / end-user, its advantage relative to current-state, alignment to Alberta Innovates and program priorities, and the technology advancement during the project
- ii. **Market Opportunity:** The commercialization potential of the proposed work in Alberta's relevant sector(s), considering market size estimates, value propositions for end-users, and competitive analysis. If a market other than Alberta is being explored, then the potentials of that work in the proposed market.
- iii. **Commercialization Pathway:** The feasibility of the commercialization pathway, considering technical, financial, and regulatory challenges, required resources, risk mitigation strategies, and the realism of their market readiness plan. Describe your commercialization partner, their integration into the proposed market where the commercial validation is taking place and the current gaps exist and how this project will fill those gaps.

2. Implementation

- i. **Project Overview:** The clarity of objectives, deliverables, outcomes, project design quality, practicality of timelines, achievability of the plan, and project performance metrics, including risk analysis and mitigation strategies.
- ii. **Project Budget and Funding Commitment:** The clarity and feasibility of the budget, justifying project costs, and the appropriateness of funding from other sources, including cash and in-kind contributions.
- iii. **Project Team:** The skills and commitment of team members, access to necessary facilities and resources, and the participation level of project partners.

3. Impact

- i. **Impacts:** The potential for lasting environmental, economic, and social impacts in Alberta and/or the market where the project is being conducted, with benefits extending beyond the applicant and reasonable timelines for realization, along with justifications for any negative impacts.

APPENDIX C: Alberta SME Determination

Assess your company for an Alberta footprint by reviewing the criteria noted below.

If you meet the following Alberta criteria you are an Alberta company that can apply to our program:

- Over 50% total Alberta ownership and control;
- And over 50% Alberta employees (FTE, PTE, and Contractors);
- And an Alberta Founder residing in Alberta as their primary residence, where income tax is paid

If you do not meet the criteria above, you may still be eligible, and the following evaluation criteria will be used to assess your Alberta Footprint:

Alberta Footprint Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location of main operations (operations, salaries, taxes, expenses, license, permits, assets, and capital flow) and head office.• Portion of physical assets based in Alberta if applicable to your business model.• Number of Alberta-based T4 employees currently employed by the applicant and percentage of total jobs in the company based in Alberta.• Taxable revenues, current and future, flowing back to Alberta.• Percent of Alberta Ownership as demonstrated on Capitalization tables and registration documents.• Due to unclear ownership and liquidity of shares, publicly traded companies are only eligible if significant Alberta ownership and control can be demonstrated. The Alberta ownership does not include Alberta investment firms that have investors from outside Alberta.• Number of Founders based in Alberta• Connections to Alberta ecosystem, industry, strategic partners, and resources to grow business in Alberta. Current and future growth in Alberta to promote jobs, economic growth, and benefit to Albertans.• Publicly identified as, and corporate messaging consistent with, being an Alberta company• Collaborative support from other provinces on a large strategic win for Canada

Determination of Alberta Footprint is at Alberta Innovates sole discretion.