

---

## NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release  
2015AGRI0076-002138  
Dec. 21, 2015

Ministry of Agriculture  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### **B.C. projects receive agriculture innovation funding**

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s agrifood industry is receiving about \$900,000 for 16 new projects that support a broad range of innovative products, practices and technologies of direct benefit to the sector.

The projects include:

- The development of “sushi quinoa” – a type of quinoa with a sticky consistency to supply the sushi market with an alternative to rice.
- Testing the effectiveness of a new pest-bird control product. If successful, the product could be an ideal option for cherry, grape and berry growers in B.C.
- Testing a foliar spray to help reduce premature fruit drop and increase blueberry yields.
- Monitoring pathogens in cherry orchards and storage facilities with wireless technology that will help B.C. cherry growers become more competitive for the Asian markets.
- Building on an earlier innovation-funded project that focused on the development and marketing of a cloud-based food safety program.

The funding comes from the governments of Canada and British Columbia’s commitment under the Growing Forward 2 agreement to provide up to \$13.4 million between 2013 and 2018 through the Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program. So far, 95 projects have shared almost \$8 million in funding. Funding is still available to support the commercialization and adoption of innovation projects that benefit individual enterprises and positively impact the B.C. agriculture and agri-foods sector as a whole.

Growing Forward 2 is a five-year agreement launched in 2013 that provides a \$3-billion, federal-provincial-territorial government investment in innovation, competitiveness and market development.

The Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. Additional program information and application forms are available at: <http://iafbc.ca/funding-opportunities/innovation/>

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Lawrence MacAulay, federal Minister of Agriculture –**

“The Government of Canada understands the importance of working with our partners to promote innovation, ensuring the competitiveness and long-term prosperity of our agricultural sector.”

#### **Norm Letnick, B.C. Minister of Agriculture –**

“The British Columbia agriculture industry is always looking for new ways to remain competitive. With this funding support, the projects will benefit the entire sector while assisting them in earning more dollars.”

**Ken Bates, Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. board chair –**

“Funding from the Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program is turning the tide for a variety of sectors throughout the province. From small-scale businesses to industry associations and post-secondary institutions, these investments are helping our industry partners enhance long-term competitiveness and sustainability.”

**Learn More:**

For information on federal Growing Forward 2 programs, visit: [www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2](http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2)

Information on Growing Forward 2 programs in British Columbia is available at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agriculture-business-and-economy/programs/growing-forward-2>

A backgrounder follows.

**Media Contacts:**

Dave Townsend  
Government Communications  
and Public Engagement  
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture  
250 356-7098  
250 889-5945 (cell)

Media Relations  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa  
613 773-7972  
1 866 345-7972

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

---

## BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release  
2015AGRI0076-002138  
Dec. 21, 2015

Ministry of Agriculture  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### **B.C. projects receive agriculture innovation funding**

#### **ATD Waste Systems Inc.:**

- \$10,000 to demonstrate that by recapturing and reusing water from dairy operations, waste water can be reduced by up to 80%, eliminating lagoons and nutrient overload.

#### **BC Blueberry Council:**

- \$38,500 to test a foliar calcium spray application to help reduce premature fruit drop and increase blueberry yields.
- \$20,000 to develop a customized smart phone app that will provide growers with information to identify pests and diseases in B.C. blueberry fields and identify appropriate control actions.

#### **BC Cranberry Marketing Commission:**

- \$1,650 to demonstrate a bumble bee garden, recommend bee-friendly plants to enhance pollination services to growers and validate indicators of key cranberry diseases. Pollination of cranberry flowers is most efficiently done by bumble bees including those native to the Fraser Valley.

#### **Burton Software Inc.:**

- \$71,000 to build on an earlier innovation-funded project that focused on the development and marketing of a cloud-based food safety program. The next steps are to commercialize the program by selecting target markets including large food processor companies.

#### **Champ's Mushrooms Inc.:**

- \$9,000 to create a mobile processing unit for mushrooms that will increase the efficiency of the processing line enabling the capture of mushroom trim and waste cuttings so they can be used for further processing.

#### **Coral Beach Farms Inc.:**

- \$12,700 to pilot test technology in B.C. orchards that can potentially offer a more effective, environmentally friendly pest-bird control option to cherry, grape and berry growers.

#### **Flex Alert Company:**

- \$187,500 to demonstrate the ability of wireless sensors, which monitor pathogens in cherry orchards and storage facilities. The technology will help B.C. cherry growers be more competitive for Asian markets.

**FTC International Consulting Ltd.:**

- \$10,000 to develop dairy-based, shelf-stable, soft-serve mixes for the food-service industry.

**Gather Harvest Company:**

- \$9,600 to build and test a solar-powered wild mushroom dehydrator during the morel mushroom season.

**The Happy Goat Farm and Dairy:**

- \$26,100 to pilot and evaluate an alternative feed production system to produce fresh green forage year-round for a herd of dairy goats.

**James Group Ventures:**

- \$181,500 for the development of an in-barn, early-disease detection tool for the poultry industry.

**JillyV's Enterprises Ltd.:**

- \$8,263 to develop a unique freeze/thaw formulation for a popular yogurt-based breakfast product that can currently only be sold and consumed fresh. If successful, this new technology will enable the Belcarra-based company to significantly expand their product distribution.

**Nova-BioRubber Green Technologies Inc.:**

- \$295,000 for the expansion of the growing and processing activities for Taraxacum kok-saghyz (TKS). The trial will be carried out to commercialize and adopt technologies for the production of natural rubber and inulin.

**Red Dog Deli Raw Food Company Inc.:**

- \$9,500 to develop specialized packaging to enhance the quality and convenience of kibble-style, frozen, raw pet food.

**Top Tier Foods Ltd.:**

- \$4,750 to support the development of "sushi quinoa" – a type of quinoa with a sticky consistency to supply the sushi market as an alternative to rice.

**Media Contacts:**

Dave Townsend  
Government Communications  
and Public Engagement  
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture  
250 356-7098  
250 889-5945 (cell)

Media Relations  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa  
613 773-7972  
1 866 345-7972

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)