



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investment Agriculture Foundation Seeks Nominations for Innovation Award

October 25, 2017 – Victoria, B.C. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) is now accepting nominations for the **2018 Award of Excellence for Innovation in Agriculture and Agri-Food**. This award celebrates B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food leaders who have implemented specific projects or initiatives leading to economic, environmental or social benefits to British Columbia and the industry in general, or to a specific sector.

"The success of B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food industry depends upon our leaders in innovation," says Ken Bates, IAF chair. "The Investment Agriculture Foundation is proud to honour these leaders and celebrate their commitment to a competitive and profitable industry."

Previous recipients include Dr. Saber Miresmailli, founder and CEO of Ecoation Innovative Solutions in 2015; Dr. Jim Thompson from the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2013; Dr. Timothy Durance, co-CEO of EnWave Corporation in 2012; Bill Vanderkooi, president of the Bakerview EcoDairy in 2011; Roger Bailey of Kalwood Farms in Oyama in 2010; and the Nutri-Loc Ingredients Corporation of Delta in 2009. Dr. Miresmailli was recognized for the development of a wireless crop health monitoring system that can prevent crop losses and decrease pest and disease management costs for growers. Dr. Thompson was awarded for developing UBC's Dairy Education and Research Centre, which helped advance dairy cattle science and practice in B.C. and beyond. Dr. Durance was recognized for his innovation and advancement of superior food dehydration technology. Vanderkooi was awarded for his commitment to innovative, sustainable and environmentally responsible dairy farm practices and education. Bailey was recognized for seeing the potential in recycled rice harvesters to make the work of orchard pickers easier, and Nutri-Loc received the award for its clean energy solution that turns culled fruits and vegetables into healthy food products.

The award is open to agri-food producers and processors; retail, food service, agri-food and/or private sector businesses; industry associations and organizations; input, technology and support service providers; academic institutions; regional districts and local governments. Applicants must have a head office or be registered in B.C. Innovations will be evaluated for their:

- Originality and uniqueness
- Degree of economic, social and/or environmental benefit to British Columbia
- Extent to which the project has advanced the industry or sector

Nominations close January 31, 2018. The 2018 award winner will be announced on April 12, 2018 at the IAF Project Showcase and Luncheon in Abbotsford.

More information and nomination forms are available at iafbc.ca/awards/award-of-excellence-for-innovation/

IAF is an industry-led, not-for-profit organization representing the agriculture, food processing, farm supply and post farm gate sectors across British Columbia. IAF works with our industry partners and federal and provincial funders to invest in projects that enhance the competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of B.C.'s agriculture and agri-food industry. IAF helps transform ideas into solutions.

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