



ANU-CSIRO Agri-Food Collaboration Program

Program Guidelines

Introduction

The **Agri-Food Collaboration Program (AFCP)** is joint initiative of ANU and the CSIRO Agriculture & Food business unit.

The Award provides funding for two Post-doctoral Fellows who provide complementary skills from each institution to work collaboratively on a single, interdisciplinary research project.

The Project must address an industry-validated challenge, be mutually beneficial to both ANU and CSIRO, and be thematically linked to one of CSIRO Agriculture & Food's seven impact areas.

The AFCP will be administered by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology (CEAT) at ANU.

Decisions on funding will be made by an AFCP **Governance Committee**.

Purpose

The **ANU-CSIRO Agri-Food Collaboration Program ("the Program")** is an initiative of the Agri-Food Collaborations Steering Committee, established in 2021. This Program aims to support collaborations between the two organisations in agri-food research by:

- promoting interdisciplinary and co-innovation approaches to solving agricultural challenges
- identifying key collaboration opportunities based on mutual benefit and in areas of complementarity
- investing in projects that have the potential to result in high impact, meaningful outcomes
- providing a funding model that supports effective cross precinct collaboration
- scoping areas of future interaction and investment

Eligibility

- The ANU-CSIRO Agri-Food Collaboration Program is open to demonstrably world-class applicants from ANU (with local delegate support) and CSIRO Ag & Food.
- Proposals under the program will first be considered for alignment with the eligibility criteria below, and then for quality of the application.

To be eligible to apply, AFCP projects **must**:

- address issues that can't be solved using business as usual approaches, with priority given to those that tackle complex challenges using interdisciplinary approaches
- tackle near to long-term challenges, including those that are beyond the current investment timeline of CSIRO's mission (i.e. >5 years)
- be mutually beneficial to both ANU and CSIRO
- be formed using complementary skills from the two institutions, avoiding skill duplication

- comprise demonstratively world-class researchers from each institution, noting that for CSIRO, this could include researchers at any of their Australian locations
- use a plan for a highly collaborative approach, possibly involving relocation of staff between institutions
- address industry-validated challenges within CSIRO Ag & Food's seven impact areas: (1) secure food systems; (2) healthy foods; (3) trusted supply chains; (4) resilient farming systems; (5) high value protein; (6) future crops; and, (7) improved footprint
- be accompanied by an industry Letter of Support, outlining how the research will address industry-relevant challenges, with potentially a financial contribution
- provide line of sight on where external funding could be generated within 3 years in order to become self-sufficient and provide return on investment to ANU and CSIRO
- document likely outcomes and impact pathway
- provide opportunities for project-aligned higher degree students to gain industry experience.

How to Apply

- Complete and return an Expression of Interest form available [here](#).
- CEAT staff will contact you to discuss suitability of the project for development into an application.
- Eligible proposals will be invited to attend a fully-funded workshop facilitated by Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN), to develop each project's value proposition, explore strategies and skills for engaging with industry partners to validate need, and to develop pathways to impact.
- Projects ready to progress to application following the workshop, will be invited to do so.

Following Application

- Expert reviews will be commissioned
- A panel from the AFCP Governance Committee will select one project for the AFCP Award
- An ANU-CSIRO Collaboration Agreement will be established, outlining how CSIRO and ANU will work together to jointly run the project.
- Two three-year Post-doctoral Fellows will be appointed to undertake the project (one from each institution)
- The Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology (CEAT) will work with high-scoring unsuccessful AFCP applicants to identify alternative sources of project funding

Reports

The successful applicants will be required to:

- produce brief quarterly reports throughout the project
- participate in annual reviews (detailed project progress and achievements against eligibility criteria) conducted by the ANU-CSIRO Steering Committee.

Contacts

Questions regarding the Program may be directed to the CEAT Executive officer, at ceat@anu.edu.au.