

# **Company Profile**

www.futurefoodsystems.com.au

#### **Our mission**

The overarching mission of the CRC is to deliver science and technology solutions that contribute to the sustainability, nutritional performance and value-creation capability of the food sector. This mission is aligned with significant Australian Government strategic programs, including the Modern Manufacturing Initiative; the Food and Agribusiness Sector Growth Plan; and the export and regional development programs of Western Australia, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.



### About the company

Founded in July 2019, Future Food Systems Cooperative Research Centre partners leading Australian universities with industry and government bodies to deliver impactful research in the food systems domain.

Current CRC activities include:

- Delivering university-based research services for participating companies across a portfolio spanning high-tech indoor cropping, plant-based foods, novel processing protocols, nutritional verification, and digital solutions for traceability, compliance and marketing
- Collaborating with local, state and national government bodies to help build industry capability and export scale in regional food innovation hubs
- Increasing industry access to skilled future employees via our PhD placement program.

## Why 'Future Food Systems'

**'Future food'** is our shorthand for categories of food that are differentiated by exceptional values for nutrition, environmental sustainability, safety and trust. Not only does Australia have capability to build global market share in these categories, we think consumers are increasingly demanding a future in which the food industry responds to these values.

Systems technologies and 'systems thinking' are critical to increasing the efficiency and resilience of the food supply chain, nationally and globally.







#### **Current partners**

Our industry partners span the food supply chain and include major manufacturers such as Sanitarium Health Food Company, ambitious SMEs such as Varona Fine Foods, digital innovators like WBS Technology, and Australia's largest horticultural groups, Costa Group and Perfection Fresh.

Government partners include the NSW, WA and NT departments of industry; Horticulture Innovation Australia; the Commonwealth Growth Centre for Food and Agribusiness, FIAL; and regional government entities at the centre of emerging food industry clusters in Gippsland, Coffs Harbour, Western Sydney, Canberra and Peel, WA.

CRC research partners include UNSW Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, University of New England, Western Sydney University, Murdoch University, Charles Darwin University, The George Institute for Global Health, and R&D teams from three state government departments.

#### **Becoming a CRC partner**

There are two categories of CRC participants: Core and Supporting. Core participants bring funded research projects and may receive co-funding and other services from the CRC. Supporting participants, typically, are government bodies involved in regional food hub activities and make significant in-kind contributions to the CRC.

#### **Benefits**

- Co-funding from the CRC for industry-sponsored projects delivered by CRC research partners
- Access to leading university researchers, high-tech facilities and a talented pool of potential future employees
- Research-based solutions to technical, commercial and strategic challenges
- Opportunities to leverage CRC communications to build brand and visibility
- An influential network of industry leaders and government stakeholders
- Specialist skills and strategic insights
- The CRC's industry placement program for higher-degree research students
- Opportunities to participate in CRC events and industry capability activities.

#### **Key terms**

- Participants join the CRC an agreed term and execute a standard Participants Agreement
- Participants retain background IP and may own IP created by projects they fund
- Applicable R&D tax incentives are retained.





# **Research project design**

Our project model is flexible to ensure that projects are configured to fit the budget available and intended objectives. CRC project partners work with a project manager to clarify concrete research questions, project deliverables and details regarding team and budget. Project proposals are assessed continuously enabling fast turnaround times.

# **Research delivery and governance**

Every CRC project is governed by a CRC Project Agreement, with delivery supervised by the CRC administrative team, expert committee and Board. Each project has a leader responsible for project delivery and reporting.

- 1. Dr Ruey Leng Loo in the lab at the Australian National Phenome Centre on Murdoch University's Perth, WA campus. Dr Loo is the research lead on the 'Food metabolomics library' and 'Bioactive components for value-add to Australian artichokes' projects, under the CRC's Research Program 3. Credit: Murdoch University
- 2. 'Microbial rhizosphere diversity in glasshouse hydroponic crops' project lead Dr Gal Winter from University of New England presenting at the Protect Cropping Australia Conference 2022. Credit: Merran White, Future Food Systems
- 3. Charles Darwin University's Dr Sean Bellairs with a sample of native rice, 2021. Dr Bellairs is the project lead on the 'Commercialisation of native rice for Indigenous enterprise development: Agronomy and value-adding' project. Credit: Sonam Adhikari Rana
- 4. Prof. Cordelia Selomulya and Dr Chris Lehnert with a robotics device. Queensland University of Technology's Dr Lehnert is the project lead for the 'Enabling task automation in protected cropping systems with autonomous mobile robots' project. Credit: David Eyre, Future Food Systems
- 5. A graphic from the 'Coffs Harbour food innovation ecosystem' project report. Credit: Queensland University of Technology
- 6. Artist's impression of the new WA Food Innovation Precinct. Credit: DevelopmentWA
- 7. 'National map of protected cropping systems' project lead Craig Shephard from University of New England mapping a new macadamia orchard. Credit: Applied Agricultural Remote Sensing Centre/University of New England

#### **Industry placement of** higher-degree research students

Placement of higher-degree research students in industry is a proven approach to acquiring skilled services at low cost, and to attracting and retaining long-term hires. If you would like to engage a higher-degree research student to work within your programs, we can help you to find the right person.

- 1. 'Optimising nutritional content in polytunnel-grown blueberries' PhD Gareema Pandey from Western Sydney University inspecting blueberries. Credit: NSW Department of Primary Industries
- 2. Charles Darwin University's PhD Gehan Abdelghany working at CDU facility for the 'Commercialisation of native rice for Indigenous enterprise development: Agronomy and value-adding' project. Credit: Gehan Abdelghany
- 3. Woojeong Kim (L) and Dr Yong Wang (R) in the School of Chemical Engineering lab, next to the spray-dryer that will be used to make
- high-purity Mg salts for EcoMag. Credit: Cordelia Selomulya
  Chelsea Maier glasshouse technician and Masters Student with Sachin Chavan postdoc and Dist. Prof. David Tissue. Credit: Sally Tsoutas for Western Sydney University
- 5. Andrew Hadinata Lie with The Alternative Dairy Co Barista Oat Milk. Credit: Anthony Battaglia, Future Food Systems
- 6. PhD Terry Lin (R) and Ziad Hamoui (L) at the Protected Cropping Conference 2022. Credit: Merran White, Future Food Systems



#### **Further information** and next steps

For further information see the website www.futurefoodsystems.com.au

For an initial discussion, please contact the CRC at info@futurefoodsystems.com.au or on +61 02 9385 9673.

#### About the Cooperative Research Centre Program

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Program is an Australian Government initiative that funds industry-led collaborations between industry, researchers and end users. Further information about the Program is available at: www.business.gov.au



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