

Australia to foster Agritech ecosystem with new grants to elevate enterprises and investment

19 April 2024 | News

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The Australian government is strengthening its agriculture sector by supporting Agritech events across the country to enhance Australian innovation. This \$1.5 million program is funded through the Albanese Government's \$12.3 million investment in regional trade events.

Round 2 of the AgriFutures Agritech Event Sponsorship Program will fund 22 agricultural innovation and agritech events, aiming to foster commercialisation opportunities, attract investment, and elevate Australian agritech enterprises.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Murray Watt, said agritech events showcase Australia's leadership in innovation, sustainability, and research.

"This program spotlights the cutting-edge innovations of regional Australian communities. Agritech events create major opportunities. They bring new products to new markets, elevate value add and sustainability, and foster deeper collaboration between industry players. The events are held on agriculture's home turf - regional Australia - ensuring the growth they generate develops regional economies" Minister Watt said.

The first round of funding saw \$275,000 distributed to seven events in regional locations including Gatton, Gippsland, Orange and Tamworth.

The successful recipients under Round 2 will share in \$625,000 with events being held between 1 April 2024 and 31 October 2024. The events include:

- Grower Group Agtech Engagement (Ballandean, Kalbar, Gatton, St George, Kingaroy and Childers QLD)
- FoodTech Tasmania 2024 (Launceston, Burnie and Longford Tasmania)
- Precision Ag Expo (McLaren Vale SA)
- SparkLabs Cultiv8 WeekZero & Regional Showcase (Orange NSW)
- South West Vic Agri-Tech Innovation Summit 2024 (Warrnambool VIC)
- Primex Field Days AgTech Alley (Casino NSW)
- The Science & Art of Trading Cattle (Coonamble NSW)
- From Here On Innovation Seminar (Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre NSW)
- Dumbleyung AgTechXPO (Dumbleyung WA)
- GroWQ Innovation Expo (Longreach QLD)
- Regional Ag-Tech Innovation and Careers Showcase (Bendigo, Mildura, Shepparton and Wodonga VIC)
- Agribusiness Today Forum (Orange and Borenore NSW)
- Automating Australian Agriculture Roadshow (WA, SA, VIC, NSW and QLD)
- Empowering Australian Agriculture: A Roadshow on Technological Resilience, Safety, and Productivity (Wagga Wagga NSW, Bundaberg QLD and Mildura VIC)
- Fruit Growers Victoria Conference 2024 (Shepparton VIC)
- Henty Machinery Field Days (Henty NSW)
- Cyber Security in Agriculture and Agribusiness (Wangaratta VIC)
- Spring Vine Health Day AgriTech Innovation Demonstration (Murrumbateman NSW)
- Robotic Weeding Demo Day (Gatton QLD)
- Agtech Showcase (Bundaberg QLD)
- Digital Agrifood Summit 2024 (Wagga Wagga NSW)
- GrownIn NQ 2024 (Bowen QLD)

Round 3 of the program will offer \$600,000 to support events held between 1 November 2024 and 30 June 2025 with applications opening in August 2024