British Columbia is home to over 150 companies developing and producing world class agriculture technology, known as “agritech.” Agritech is the fusion of innovation and technology applied to the agriculture, food processing and seafood sectors. It has significant potential to address production issues, arising from a growing population with increasing expectations for sustainability and traceability.

B.C. is positioned to become a leader in the development of agritech, with the combination of:

- The most diverse array of agricultural commodities in Canada;
- Technology entrepreneurs, academic institutions and researchers located in proximity to agricultural areas;
- Unique biogeoclimatic zones that create a “living lab” environment for the development and trial of new agricultural technologies; and
- An internationally recognized, trusted brand for sustainably produced foods.

**AGRITECH PROGRAMS**

B.C. agritech innovators and entrepreneurs continue to build on the combination of excellent research centres, top universities and research-based companies that provide opportunities for talent and idea exchange for new agricultural discoveries and innovations.

**Canada/BC Agri-Innovation Program (CBCAIP)**

The Canada/BC Agri-Innovation Program allows industry, academia, food processors, retailers and others to access funding for projects involving late-stage research, pilots and demonstrations, as well as the commercialization and adoption of innovative products, technologies and practices for the agriculture and food sector.

CBCAIP is a program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership – a five-year, $3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the agriculture and food sectors. [https://iafbc.ca/agri-innovation/](https://iafbc.ca/agri-innovation/)

**Agritech Innovation Challenge**

The Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with the Government of Canada and Innovate BC, developed the Agritech Innovation Challenge to identify innovation solutions to problems faced by BC’s agriculture and food industry. [https://innovatebc.ca/what-we-offer/innovation-marketplace/agritech-challenge/](https://innovatebc.ca/what-we-offer/innovation-marketplace/agritech-challenge/)

**Agriculture Venture Acceleration Program**

Delivered by Foresight, with funds from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, the program provides mentorship, coaching and market validating training support to early stage entrepreneurs across the province. [https://innovatebc.ca/what-we-offer/connect-with-experts/venture-acceleration-program/](https://innovatebc.ca/what-we-offer/connect-with-experts/venture-acceleration-program/)

**B.C. IS GROWING SUCCESSFUL AGRITECH COMPANIES**

- **Ecoation Innovative Solutions Inc.**
  Developed a wireless crop-health monitoring and management system designed to track and monitor crops’ health. This management system offers pest monitoring system, real time crop health monitoring tools and other technologies related to food security, bio-informatics, precision agriculture and applied biology, enabling agricultural industries to take care of crops’ health. They have developed a fourth-generation commercial device for collecting plant health data in a greenhouse and field setting. Ecoation received the 2018 Greentech Innovation Concept Award in Amsterdam.
Semios
Named as one of BC’s Top 100 Global Cleantech companies in 2019. Semios is a precision farming platform and the leader in on-site sensing, big data and predictive analytics solutions for perennial agricultural crops. Semios serves the highest valued crops such as treefruit, nuts and grapes and allows farmers to make better decisions about crop management using a technology called machine to machine providing up to date data. With the network in place, frost control, irrigation and disease management, to name a few, are issues this company intends to help solve through technology.

Terramera
Through a combination of their proprietary Actigate™ Targeted Performance technology with data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence, Terramera has developed sustainable solutions and highly effective, natural products for consumers and farmers. This company has created sustainable pest and disease control solutions using biological plant-based materials as alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides providing alternatives for crop health and protection.

RELATED INITIATIVES

Food Security Task Force
The Food Security Task Force has been appointed by the Premier to provide strategic recommendations to government on how to grow the agriculture and food sector through technology and innovation. The Task Force is exploring the following food security strategies:

- Applying technology and innovation to the agricultural and seafood sectors in ways that improve efficiency and reduce waste and consider other expensive or damaging environmental inputs.
- Developing the talent needed to advance, drive and implement innovations in the sector.
- Identifying other barriers that may be impact sector and advance food security.

https://engage.gov.bc.ca/foodsecuritytaskforce/

Clean BC
The Province has committed to fully funding initiatives that get us to our 2030 climate goals. Clean, renewable energy solutions to promote efficiency in water use and optimize waste energy generation creates tremendous opportunity for collaboration between the agriculture and clean technology sectors.

The Government of British Columbia is committed to advancing the pace of innovation in agriculture by supporting research, development, commercialization and adoption of new technologies. But we know there is much more that can be done – bigger ideas, bolder moves – to reach the full potential of the agritech opportunity in B.C.

The BC Food Hub Network
The BC Food Hub Network aims to foster growth and innovation in the processing sector through improved industry access to facilities, equipment, technology, technical services and business supports. The Network model is being developed in collaboration with industry, communities and post-secondary institutions. The BC Food Hub Network will be comprised of a Food and Beverage Innovation Centre at the University of British Columbia and a series of inter-connected regional Food Hubs across the province that will be regionally-tailored, shared food innovation and processing facilities.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/growbc-feedbc-buybc/feed-bc/feed-bc-the-bc-food-hub-network

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AGRITECH, PLEASE CONTACT:
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