

**AGRITECH INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2016**  
**LETTER OF INTEREST FORM**



## Instructions

The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and BC Innovation Council are inviting B.C. innovators (producers, processors, entrepreneurs, startups, companies, and researchers) to submit 'Letters of Interest' explaining how they can support and solve the exciting challenges in B.C. agritech. Your ideas will drive the next generation of innovation and technology development in order to enhance the competitiveness and resiliency of B.C.'s agrifood sector.

**The opportunity:** Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of experts and a shortlist of successful candidates may advance towards mentorship, potential seed funding, financing and other project opportunities, including a chance to pitch at the #BCTECH Summit. Selected submissions will also receive additional support to further develop their innovations.

**Challenge information:** Please read the challenge material (presentations, one-pagers) in the accompanying email, or visit [AgritechInnovation.ca/Challenge-Submissions](http://AgritechInnovation.ca/Challenge-Submissions) to review this information. Challenge opportunities are presented in the thematic areas of improving berry competitiveness (mechanization), pest management and loss reduction, greenhouse efficiency, and nutrient management, but we welcome innovative ideas inspired by these areas and examples.

### Key Dates:

- Dec 16, 2016 – 'Letter of Interest' submission deadline
- Early Jan 2017 – Innovators notified as to whether their submission has advanced
- Jan 2017 – Advanced innovators receive mentorship on their submissions
- Feb 1, 2017 – Solution form submission deadline for advanced innovators
- Late Feb 2017 – Winning innovators selected and notified
- Mar 14/15, 2017 – Winning innovators pitch at #BCTECHSummit
- Mar 2017 – Selected innovators receive additional support to further develop their innovations

**Submission process:** Complete and submit the 'Letter of Interest' form below by **December 16, 2016 at 4:00pm PST** by email to the BC Innovation Council at [connect@bcic.ca](mailto:connect@bcic.ca) (Subject Line: Agritech Challenge Solution). The 'Letter of Interest' can be a maximum of two-pages, and must be submitted in arial 10 font. Condensed fonts will not be accepted. Submissions are welcome from all B.C. innovators, attendance at the Agritech Innovation Challenge event is not required to submit.

**Non Confidential:** All content provided in the 'Letter of Interest' must be public. Please understand that by signing and submitting the 'Letter of Interest' you are acknowledging that the content provided is non-confidential information about your company, idea or innovation, and that the BC Innovation Council will be contacting you to discuss your submission and will share this information with reviewers as part of the evaluation process.

**More Information:** See the event website [AgritechInnovation.ca](http://AgritechInnovation.ca) or visit [BCIC.ca/AgritechQuestions](http://BCIC.ca/AgritechQuestions) to submit questions.

Funding for the Agritech Innovation Challenge has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



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**Letter of Interest Content**

Please submit a formal 'Letter of Interest' to the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and BC Innovation Council (two pages maximum, arial font 10) by December 16, 2016 at 4:00pm PST, by email to the BC Innovation Council at [connect@bcic.ca](mailto:connect@bcic.ca) (Subject Line: Agritech Challenge Solution). The 'Letter of Interest' should describe your solution, idea and/or innovation, and include the following information.

Applicant Information:

- First Name, Last Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Full Mailing Address

Company Information (If Applicable):

- Company Name
- Applicants Title/Role in Company
- Website
- Date Founded
- Key Team Members and Expertise

Solution/Idea/Innovation Information:

Please include in your 'Letter of Interest' the following information:

- How did you hear about this opportunity?
- In what thematic challenge area (berry competitiveness, pest management and loss reduction, greenhouse efficiency, nutrient management, or overall food supply security) does your innovation/idea apply, and how?
- What is your innovation/idea and how does it work? Why is it important?
- How will it benefit B.C. and its agriculture industry (productivity, sustainability, job creation, economic growth)?
- What are the advantages of your innovation/idea (e.g. increased productivity and revenue, increased efficiency and cost savings)? **Remember**, we are seeking innovations that are not prohibitively expensive, not overly-complex to implement and maintain, and have a strong potential for return on investment.
- Stage of innovation: idea/early-stage, prototype created, generating revenue.
- Any supporting information you would like to add (ancillary features or services, background/history, sales strategy).
- Name, Signature

**On behalf of the Government of British Columbia and BC Innovation Council, thank you for your submission! Please share this opportunity with other innovators!**

