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April 2023



Alliance Innovations

A collaboration between OMAFRA and the University of Guelph

Stories of the Alliance people, places and programs generating impact in the agri-food sector in Ontario and around the world.

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Province invests more than \$343M in Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance





Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson, left, and U of G president Dr. Charlotte Yates

The Ontario government is investing more than \$343 million over five years to support agri-food research and innovation through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.

The Alliance leverages U of G expertise and brings together academia, government and industry to support Ontario's \$47-billion agri-food sector with cutting-edge research and innovation, training and laboratory services.

"The University of Guelph applauds the Government of Ontario for its continued support and strengthening of Ontario's agri-food sector, bringing industry, government and university together to form a unique, world-class partnership," said University president Dr. Charlotte Yates. "Using our expertise, the University leverages this government investment to protect plant and animal health, guard against new disease and environmental challenges, safeguard Ontario's food supply and support leading agri-food innovation."

Continue reading



Bringing together academia, government and industry

On Wednesday, March 15, Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced the renewal of the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance. She was joined at the Ontario Dairy Research Centre by representatives from U of G, the ARIO and industry.

WATCH:

OMAFRA and U of G renew the agreement for the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.



Media highlights:

[Province to continue partnership with University of Guelph on agri-food alliance](#) |

[5-year, \\$343M deal between province, U of Guelph for food research](#) | The Record

[Research alliance to get \\$343 million over five years](#) | Farmtario

[Province renews U of G agreement, commits \\$343 million over 5 years](#) | GuelphToday

[Agri-food research gets \\$343-million boost from province](#) | Woolwich Observer

2023 KTT (Knowledge Translation & Transfer) Symposium

Growing Knowledge Mobilization in Ontario

Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Hybrid Event



Join us April 25 to discuss how KTT can support the agri-food and rural sectors in Ontario and beyond.

- Hear from researchers who are delivering KTT approaches to engage communities across Ontario and Canada.
- Learn about international perspectives on farmer-engaged KTT strategies and how they can be applied in Ontario.
- Engage with industry partners to learn about different institutional approaches to KTT in the Ontario agri-food sector.
- Network with colleagues from across government, academia and industry who are working to connect producers with agri-food research.

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Hybrid event: 1 Stone Road, Guelph, and Zoom

Register for the 2023 KTT Symposium

Biofect Innovations wins Ontario Agri-Tech Pitch Competition





Dr. Ralph Christian Delos Santos of Biofect Innovations and Kim Parker of Food Security Structures Canada hold their Agri-Tech Pitch Competition awards among their competitors from Ontario-based companies Psigryph, Terra Optima and VETSon.

Biofect Innovations, maker of a potential sugar substitute, is the \$10,000 grand prize winner of the inaugural Agri-Tech Pitch Competition held through the University of Guelph.

Event attendees selected **Food Security Structures Canada** as the People's Choice winner to receive \$2,500.

Held March 24, the pitch event hosted by U of G's **Research Innovation Office** and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is intended to raise awareness of agri-food issues and showcase promising Ontario companies.

Biofect Innovations, based in Toronto, created a proprietary fermentation process using microbes that turn industry by-products like starch into brazzein, a sweet-tasting protein 2,000 times sweeter than sugar.

Other pitch teams included **Psigryph**, **Terra Optima** and **VETSon**.

Read the full news release

KTT funding program extends submission date to May 2

Knowledge Translation & Transfer

Funding Call EXTENDED - Submit Your Proposal



**Call for proposals now closes
Tues., May 2 at 1 p.m**

The Alliance's Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) Funding Program aims to accelerate the impact of agri-food and rural research. Applications are open for two funding streams:

1. KTT Research projects that advance the science of KTT in the agri-food and rural sectors and contribute to the scholarly literature by developing or assessing KTT activities or approaches.
2. KTT Mobilization projects that disseminate and mobilize existing research.

For more information on the KTT Funding Program, including how to apply, click the button below.

KTT Funding Program details

KTT funded projects: Getting science off the shelf

U of G researchers are using the KTT funding program to advance the science of knowledge translation and transfer, and create activities that support the dissemination of existing research in the agri-food and rural sectors.

[Explore previously funded KTT projects](#)

Upcoming events

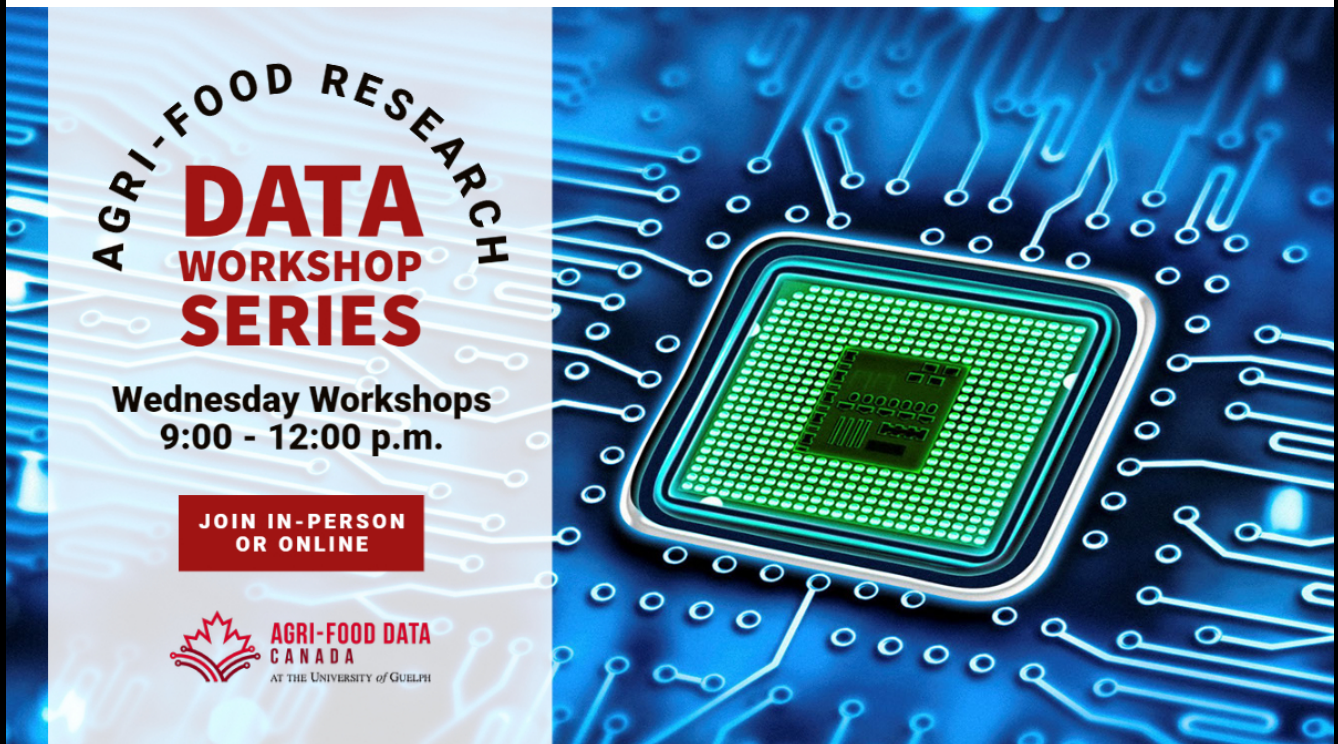


**AIAEE 2023
University of
Guelph**

**Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) Conference
April 26-29, University of Guelph**

Hosted by the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development (SEDRD) at the University of Guelph, the theme of *Technology, Pluralism and Inclusiveness in Agriculture, Food, and Environment* speaks to their goal of providing an engaging experience to learn about agriculture, food and environment from international and cross-cultural perspectives.

Register for AIAEE



The poster for the Agri-Food Research Data Workshop Series features a blue background with a glowing green microchip in the center, surrounded by white circuit lines. On the left, a white vertical band contains the text: "AGRI-FOOD RESEARCH" in a semi-circle, "DATA WORKSHOP SERIES" in large red letters, "Wednesday Workshops 9:00 - 12:00 p.m." in black, a red button with "JOIN IN-PERSON OR ONLINE" in white, and the "AGRI-FOOD DATA CANADA AT THE UNIVERSITY of GUELPH" logo at the bottom.

**Agri-Food Research Data Workshop Series
Wednesdays, April to June, In-Person and Online**

This series of nine data workshops will teach participants about data management plans, the new Ontario Dairy Research Centre Data Portal, strategies to document data and more. Click the link below for full details.

Register for the Data Workshop Series

Media

A selection of Alliance people, places and programs cited in popular and trade media.

[Ontario Government makes historic investment allowing University of Guelph to expand veterinary training, addressing critical workforce shortages](#) (Mar. 23, U of G News)

Investments will support a new collaborative program increasing number of veterinarian

graduates in Ontario by 20 per cent per year and an incentive program to expand number of large animal veterinarians practicing in underserved communities.

HQP and AFI scholars explore food security and circular economy in Guelph (Mar. 20, U of G, Food from Thought)

A group of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and **Arrell Food Institute** scholars from various academic disciplines recently participated in a field trip on March 13 to learn about food security organizations and circular economy initiatives in the City of Guelph.

HQP scholars using OMICs technologies to study the immune response of parasite-infected sheep (Mar. 15, U of G, Food from Thought)

A group of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) scholars, all graduate students in the Department of Animal Biosciences, are using cutting-edge OMICs technologies to investigate the immune response of sheep to gastrointestinal nematode infection and identify potential key regulator genes associated with immunity.

Can corn and cover crops work together? (Mar. 14, Farmtario)

Presented at the 2023 Ontario Agricultural Conference, long-term data from University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus have established the benefit of red clover underseeded to winter wheat.

Breeding climate-resilient cattle (Mar. 14, U of G, Dairy@Guelph)

Research at the Ontario Dairy Research Centre suggests cows with a naturally higher immune response also have a higher tolerance for increased temperatures, meaning that this research may allow dairy producers to breed cattle that better withstand heat stress.

New apple variety at U of G may juice up cider industry (Mar. 10, U of G, Office of Research)

The U of G researcher's work started in 2001 at the Simcoe site of the Ontario Crops Research Centre. The new apple variety, called Providence, holds promise for the cider industry.

Picture this: Technology developed to bolster climate change studies (Feb. 16, U of G, Food from Thought)

After being tested, cameras that cost about \$900 less than those currently used will be installed on each of the 18 lysimeters at the Ontario Crops Research Centre in Elora.

Make an Alliance connection



Visit the Alliance website



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This newsletter is produced by the University's Office of Research. The views expressed are the views of the University and do not necessarily reflect those of OMAFRA. Questions regarding the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Agreement can be addressed to omafra@uoguelph.ca.



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