

Emerge Program Grant Guidelines

Innovation starts at home! We are here to support people working in agriculture who want to test and develop their ideas for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.

The objective of the 'Emerge Program' is to support and facilitate the development of ideas that will help WA farmers and the agri-food sector prosper in hotter and more variable climates and build greater resilience to more frequent seasonal droughts.

Our mission is to foster small cohorts of agricultural thinkers by helping them enter the innovation ecosystem through a cash grant and mentoring opportunities.

Introduction

There are many existing programs in Australia for ideas that are ready to commence a structured commercialisation process. However, many ideas aren't developed to the point where they are ready to commence that process. The Emerge Program is designed to support new ideas, especially from farmers who have little experience with the innovation ecosystem.

The Emerge Program is not a commercialisation program. It is an innovation preparation phase, where the focus is about identifying potential and further developing ideas to the stage where they are ready for research, development, and commercialisation.

Program outline

There are different components to this opportunity:

- Webinars with innovation experts
- Mentoring and guidance from scientists at CSIRO across Australia
- Funding for activities to assist you to explore your idea
- Evaluation and feedback summit

Through this program you will have the opportunity to join in dedicated webinars with innovation experts. You will hear from guest speakers who are somewhere along, or have been through, the commercialisation pathway. You will hear about the next steps and suitable Australian programs to take your idea into commercialisation.

You will be partnered with a scientist from CSIRO for up to **ten** hours of mentoring to help you better understand your concept and develop your idea, so it is ready for the next stage of commercialisation. You will create a plan that includes why the idea will work (the hypothesis) and what experimentation or testing will be done to prove or disprove this.

You will be able to access up to \$10,000 of cash funding to assist you with activities such as:

1. Attendance at relevant conferences, workshops, and field days
2. Opportunities to pitch your idea to industry/researchers/customers/investors
3. Market analysis
4. Prototype development
5. Research activities such as early-stage testing and trialing
6. Additional mentoring and business support

You will be provided with a learning log to help track your progress and ideas and provide feedback about the program. You will attend a face-to-face summit to evaluate your progress, the program, and help determine whether you have the motivation, expertise and resources needed to continue developing your idea.

Requirements

You are required to fill in the application form located at: <https://airtable.com/shrqNXgaGQJq3IMpq>

You will be asked for your details and will need to be ready to provide details about your idea as below.

1.	What is the problem you are tackling and why is it important?
2.	Can you describe what your ultimate solution might look like?
3.	How will your idea build greater climate and drought resilience for growers?
4.	What stage is your idea at now? (e.g., concept, research, experiment, prototype, finished product etc.)?
5.	How unique or radical do you think your idea is? Why?
6.	How easy do you think your idea would be to take to market or be implemented? Explain?
7.	Do you know what you need to do next to further develop or test your idea? Explain
8.	What do you think are the major hurdles that need to be overcome if your ultimate solution was to be successful?
9.	What would success look like for you from this program?
10.	Describe your project plan (max of 3 paragraphs) – what do you want to do?
11.	Is there anything else you would like us to know?

You will be asked to provide a budget outlining your activities and how you will spend the grant money. There is no one-size-fits-all process to nurturing a successful idea, but your application will be assessed on how targeted your idea is towards reducing the impact of drought that is likely to be adopted. No capital infrastructure will be funded.

Formal contracting arrangements will be made with grant recipients.

Who can apply

Any individual or organisation can apply, or participate, providing they meet and adhere to the Emerge Program criteria outlined below. There is no restriction as to where you are from. All we know is that people working together from diverse backgrounds and skill sets often have the most interesting ideas!

Program criteria

	Criteria	Weight %
1	How important is the problem that is being tackled?	20
2	How well does the idea build climate resilience?	20
3	How unique is the solution?	20
4	Are potential customers identified?	15
5	How easy would it be to develop and introduce commercially?	10
6	Are the key hurdles to implementation identified?	10
7	Is there a project plan?	5

Application process

All you need to do is fill in the online application form and submit it by the due date.

We have provided a word version as an appendix in this document so you can fill it in over time and then upload it in one go so you don't lose your changes. Please note the application portal does not save as you go!

All applications will be considered by an independent selection panel.

The Emerge Program is competitive; as such, each application will be assessed against the selection criteria and each other. There is no limit other than the overall fund size as to how many applications could be awarded. Similarly, it is possible that no applications will receive funding.

Even if you do not receive any funding, you will still be able to participate in the virtual workshops, provided we have received a satisfactory application.

Final project payments will only be made once it is agreed that the final learning logs have been satisfactorily completed.

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Statement:

For applicants to fully participate in the Emerge Program, we want to encourage you to freely share any ideas you may have with the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) and CSIRO. We understand you may have an idea that is considered confidential and needs protecting. All confidential information you disclose in connection with the Emerge Program is strictly confidential.

GGA and CSIRO must treat all confidential information as owned by you and must not, without the prior written consent from you, disclose or permit the confidential information to be disclosed to any third party.

Any confidential information you disclose will be reviewed by GGA and shared with the management committee of the Emerge Program for project learning and improvement purposes only.

Confidential information will be kept confidential for a period of 5 years commencing on the date you submit your application for the Emerge Program.

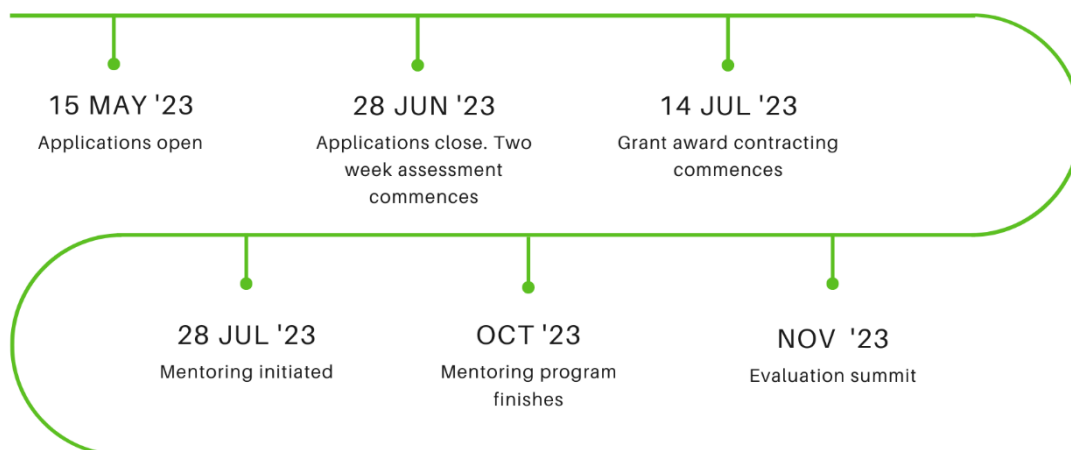
If you own any intellectual property that is shared in connection with the Emerge Program, you will continue to be the owner of your intellectual property.

By participating in the Emerge Program, you do not grant a licence (or a sublicense) to GGA or CSIRO to use, reproduce, publish, adapt or exploit your intellectual property.



Timeframe:

Emerge grant program timeline



Applications portal link: <https://airtable.com/shrqNXgaGQJq3IMpq>

Application Appendix below



Appendix 1. Application word version

Date of application:	
Applicants First Name	
Applicants Surname	
Individual or Team plus team names	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Contact Email	
Telephone	
Postal Address	
What is the problem you are tackling and why is it important?	
Can you describe what your ultimate solution might look like?	



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Describe your project plan (max of 3 paragraphs) – what do you want to do?	
Is there anything else you would like us to know?	