

Innovation Cost-share Funding

Additional cost-share funding may be available for innovative projects in this Project Category.

If a project presents a significant innovation to the sector or to Ontario, additional cost-share funding may be available, to a maximum of 50 per cent.

To be considered, you must meet additional criteria. See the Checklist for Innovation Cost-share Funding below. On the Application Form, you must indicate that you want the project to be reviewed for Innovation and respond to additional questions. You are strongly encouraged to provide independent letters of support from industry, academia or other credible, non-biased sources to prove that the project is indeed innovative and has the potential to benefit the sector.

This may take the form of:

- Letters from credible industry or academic sources that confirm the innovative nature of the project. Names and contact information of independent sources should be included. OMAFRA staff will not provide letters of support for any applications. Support letters cannot be from sources with a direct financial stake in, or other close connection to, the project (e.g., a member of the company's board of directors, an employee of a company supplying a new piece of equipment for the project, or a collaborator in the project). Independent support of innovation is not required but will be considered favourably
- Unbiased studies or market analysis

Checklist for Innovation Cost-Share Funding

In order to qualify for an increase in cost-share funding, projects must be innovative and clearly meet or exceed the following criteria:

Novelty

- The project will introduce a new and distinctive product, process or technology to North America.
OR
- The project will transfer a technology or a process from a non-agricultural sector (e.g., automotive) to the agri-food and agri-based bioproducts sector.

Benefits

- The project will provide significant benefits to the sector compared to current practice. This could include a combination of private economic benefits resulting from greater productivity or efficiency or public good benefits, such as a reduced environmental footprint or enhanced animal welfare. Preference will be given to projects providing both economic and public good benefits. However, projects providing only one or the other may be acceptable if all other criteria are met.

Level of Risk

- The project carries a higher level of uncertainty or risk because the innovation it involves may not have been tested widely under conditions similar to those found in Ontario.
- The project is not an installation of an off-the-shelf technology that has already been proven in a similar setting under parallel conditions.

Drives Competitiveness

- The innovation will allow the Ontario business to reduce their costs or increase value add, and motivate other Ontario businesses to adopt the innovation, raising the overall competitiveness of the sector.

Knowledge Transfer Plan

- The applicant will share knowledge about the innovation that can benefit other Ontario businesses in the sector and the value chain.
- The applicant submits with its application a knowledge transfer plan that will be implemented if the project is approved and innovation funding is awarded. Knowledge transfer plans must meet the following requirements at a minimum:

KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLAN REQUIREMENTS, BY INNOVATION PROJECT TYPE

Innovation Project Type	Innovation 1: Project has innovation new to North America or new to the sector	Innovation 2: Project has innovation new to North America or new to the sector, but the innovation was further adapted within Ontario for Ontario's sector/climate, etc. That additional adapted innovation is proprietary	Innovation 3: Project has an innovation that has proprietary information developed by the business/ organization
Knowledge Sharing Requirement Based on Innovation Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project includes a knowledge sharing plan that will share knowledge of the full innovation component of the project and results broadly with the Ontario industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project includes a knowledge sharing plan that will share full knowledge of the new to North America/sector innovation component with the Ontario industry, but the IP component may be retained by the applicant • The applicant to provide general information on the IP component and indicate when it will be available for commercialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project includes a knowledge sharing plan that will share information on the broader project and the broader innovation and results to the Ontario industry, but the IP component may be retained by the applicant • Business provides the opportunity for others to invest or for commercial access (in the future)
Knowledge Sharing Plan Content Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content of a knowledge sharing plan should include: the type of innovation information to be shared (noted above), how and when the information regarding the innovation from the project will be shared; as well as the audience reach for the information sharing (showing efforts to share with sector) • Examples of how/where the innovation from the project could be shared: news (press) releases; brochures; fact sheets; newsletters; reports; displays; presentations; websites; social media; videos; promotional items; public notices; open house; articles for magazine or website, or presenting results at stakeholder meeting(s) 		