



# Application Guidelines for Producer Technology Uptake Program

[agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/  
producer-technology-uptake-program](https://agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/producer-technology-uptake-program)



**AgriFutures<sup>®</sup>**  
National Rural  
Issues

# Contents

---

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| What is it?                           | 02 |
| What is involved in the program?      | 03 |
| What are the workshops about?         | 03 |
| What can be funded through the grant? | 04 |
| Ineligible expenditure                | 04 |
| Project outcomes                      | 04 |
| Am I Eligible?                        | 05 |
| Application process                   | 06 |
| Successful applicants                 | 06 |
| Unsuccessful applicants               | 06 |
| Personal information                  | 06 |
| Administration                        | 06 |
| Timeline                              | 06 |
| Publicity of grant assistance         | 06 |
| What is a producer group?             | 07 |
| Application and Evaluation Process    | 08 |

---

# What is it?

In March 2021, AgriFutures Australia launched a pilot program called the Producer Technology Uptake Program. Following the success of the program since its inception, AgriFutures Australia is opening another round of the program.

This program continues to work with farmers, fishers and foresters to overcome known barriers to technology adoption on-farm or on-boat.

Digital technologies are critical to increased productivity through optimising input use, more timely decision-making, labour savings and improved market access. The program is designed to work with existing producer networks, who know and understand the needs of producers in their region as well as producer maturity in terms of digital literacy and capacity for technology

## Producer Groups

In addition to having access to an online technology adoption hub and delivering a capacity-building workshop, eligible producer groups can apply for up to \$20,000 ex gst to develop a bespoke program to specifically support producers in their group to start or continue their technology adoption journey.

## Who are we targeting?

The program targets producers that are interested and willing to innovate and adopt technology, but may lack the knowledge, skills or experience to achieve it. We know that there are a range of barriers to on-farm technology adoption, including:

- Producers overwhelmed with options
- Lack of local support or advisory services
- Lack of individual skills or knowledge around technology and its application
- The value proposition or return on investment is not clear
- Integration of technology across multiple systems, e.g. software applications

The program targets producers who may not have kicked off plans to adopt technology in their business but want to overcome some of these barriers to begin.

The program is not designed for “early” technology adopters, ie. those that have developed skills and are already well-established technology users, but it is an asset to have their input as part of the program.

## Agricultural High Schools

AgriFutures Australia is pleased to announce an expansion of the program to include eligible Agricultural High Schools. Eligible schools will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$20,000 ex gst to develop a bespoke activity or project that will build student capacity to learn, understand and incorporate technology on-farm. In addition to the grant, successful Agricultural High Schools will also have access to an online technology adoption resource hub. Eligible schools are encouraged to discuss their application with AgriFutures Australia and consider what support mechanisms may be required for the activity or project roll out.

## What is involved in the program?

The pilot program is focused on delivering practical support, knowledge and capacity to farmers, fishers and foresters to adopt technology solutions in their business. The program will achieve this through three deliverables:



### Online information hub:

- Access to an online hub of information specifically designed for producers who want to get involved in technology adoption, but do not know where to start. The hub aims to demystify the language around technology adoption and provide helpful tools and resources to start producers on their agtech adoption journey.
- The hub will also feature case studies, tools, guides and links to useful information.



### Producer technology workshops:

- Successful grant recipients will have access to a bespoke producer technology uptake workshop to be delivered by trained experts, experienced in working with farmers to plan their technology needs and develop practical steps to implementation.
- Groups will have the opportunity to tailor content to their specific level of maturity and identified need. The workshops are an essential part of the grant, more information is provided below.  
*\* Please note that the workshops have not been designed for high school students.*



### Producer group grants:

- Eligible producer groups can apply for up to \$20,000 ex gst to build a practical technology uptake program targeting producers. Successful grant recipients will gain access to the workshops automatically.
- Grants are available to develop tailored opportunities to complement the workshop, encourage ongoing implementation and ensure that activity doesn't end at the completion of the workshop.

## What are the workshops about?

AgriFutures has designed the producer technology workshops specifically for producer groups to address their technology needs and develop practical steps to implementation for their producers. These workshops have not been designed for high school students. AgriFutures encourages successful Agricultural High Schools to think about alternative activities suitable for their students to participate in as part of the grant activities.

As part of each grant, groups will have access to a professional development workshop that delivers practical information, decision-making tools and resources and will create an informed network of like-minded producers focused on technology adoption.

Specifically, the workshops will support producers to develop a farm technology plan. The intention is for each producer to leave the workshop with a personalised plan to start implementation post-workshop. The plan will identify their farming system, their key decision point, appropriate solutions and capital requirements, and identify the steps to bring it all together to make optimal decisions. Furthermore, this becomes a self-assessment framework for future technology investments, assisting with the broader adoption of on-farm technology.

The training will be completed at a time and location negotiated with each successful grant applicant. While the workshop content will be developed centrally, conversations with the trainers will be held prior to the workshops to ensure that the content is tailored to the needs of the individual groups. The content is designed to be highly practical, interactive and relevant for any industry.

Rural Edge, an experienced professional development and training organisation for producers, has been engaged to develop the workshop content and deliver the training. Cost for facilitation, facilitator travel or content development linked to the roll out of the workshops does not need to be factored into grant applications.

**The pilot program is focused on delivering practical support, knowledge and capacity to farmers, fishers and foresters to adopt technology solutions in their business.**

## What can be funded through the grant?

Eligible activities funded through the grant may include, but are not limited to:

- Workshop venue hire fees, catering and other miscellaneous costs
- Group transport for the workshop or other program activities e.g. bus hire
- Equipment or technology demonstration hire
- Consultant fees or other peer support activities that assist members to implement their technology adoption plans
- Travel bursaries for members to attend additional technology adoption training, workshops, demonstration farms or networking events
- Group technology trials, involving the purchase of software or equipment for the purpose of demonstrating usability, return on investment and integration
- Administration costs incurred by the group in delivering the program (up to 10% of the total grant amount)

No workshop facilitation or content development costs should be included in grant applications. The above list of eligible activities is intended as a guide only. Producer groups are encouraged to identify opportunities that suit the needs of their group.

## Ineligible expenditure

The program is designed to give producer groups flexibility to tailor opportunities to suit the needs of their members, however not all costs are eligible for funding. Following is a list of expenses that are **not eligible**.

If you are unsure if a planned activity is eligible or not, please contact us via [programs@agrifutures.com.au](mailto:programs@agrifutures.com.au) prior to submitting your application.

- Retrospective expenses or other expenses not linked to the project activity
- In-house or in-kind costs, including wages and salaries
- Training and travel that is not directly linked to program activities
- Purchase of capital equipment that is not directly linked to project activities

## Agricultural High Schools

Agricultural High Schools are invited to apply for the Producer Technology Uptake Program grant funding to develop a bespoke activity or project that will enable students to build capacity to learn, understand and incorporate technology on-farm.

Schools will not be eligible for the Farm Tech Workshop, however, they will be able to access the online resource hub in addition to the grant.

Up to \$20,000 ex gst is available for individual school projects. Schools are encouraged to refer to the FAQ's or speak with AgriFutures Australia for clarification regarding grant activities.

## Project outcomes

- During round three, around 300 farmers will have developed a farm technology plan as a pathway to connected digital solutions to improve farm management decisions. This will improve the digital capacity of the individuals, leading to a reduction in the complexity of the data processing to achieve credible management results.
- Changes in the farm business will be documented and barriers to adoption better understood and articulated by farmers.
- Improved user engagement with digital solutions for agronomic decision support and farm management.
- Contextual pathways identified and developed for predictive farm management.
- Assessment of the farming, fisheries and forestry community's technology adoption capacity.

# Am I Eligible?

If you answer “yes” to the following criteria, then you are eligible to apply\*.

Applications are subject to a merit assessment made by AgriFutures Australia. All decisions related to successful grant recipients by AgriFutures Australia will be final.

- Is your group or school based in Australia?
- Does your group\* represent producer members (farmers, fishers, or foresters) or does your school have a dedicated Agricultural Department?
- Are you currently registered with an ABN?
- Does your group or school have at least 10 producers or students committed to participating in the program?
- Does your group or school have experience in managing grants, including financial and reporting systems?
- Would participation in the program genuinely benefit producers or students in your group?

\*As defined under ‘what is a producer group’. If you have any questions about your groups’ eligibility, please reach out to us at [programs@agrifutures.com.au](mailto:programs@agrifutures.com.au)

To ensure funding reaches as many groups as possible to support on-ground technology adoption, producer groups that have previously received funding under AgriFutures Australia’s Producer Technology Uptake Program will not be eligible to apply for future rounds at this point in time.

---

## Application Process

Applications are to be submitted through SmartyGrants via the link: [agrifutures.smartygrants.com.au/producer-technology-uptake-program](https://agrifutures.smartygrants.com.au/producer-technology-uptake-program).

All documentation must be submitted at the time of application, no late applications will be accepted.

Documentation required:

- Completed application form.
- Completed budget, including in-kind contributions.
- Any other supporting documentation relevant to your application.

## Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will receive a funding agreement documentation for acceptance. Successful applicants will need to submit a final financial statement, including proof of expenditure upon completion of the project.

- Satisfactory proof of eligible expenditure, which may include invoices and evidence of expenditure (receipts, bank statements etc) depending on the expense item and amount being claimed
- A detailed written report on the activities undertaken and outcomes achieved (a template will be provided by AgriFutures Australia)
- A valid tax invoice

Additional reports on the outcomes of the training workshop may be requested up to 24 months after grant payment. If a significant outcome occurs as a result of the funded training workshops the farming group agrees to AgriFutures Australia publicising the outcome and the farming group agrees to cooperate in any joint media opportunity that AgriFutures Australia may require.

## Unsuccessful applicants

Applicants deemed by AgriFutures Australia to be ineligible or unsuccessful shall be notified in writing. The decision by AgriFutures Australia shall be final.

## Personal information

Personal information provided to AgriFutures Australia will be used for the primary purpose for which it is collected. Personal information will be managed in accordance with the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 and AgriFutures Privacy Policy.

## Administration

The programs funds will be administered by AgriFutures Australia. Workshop administration, following applicant approval, will be the responsibility of the successful applicant and the workshop provider/facilitator. Acquittals and other reports (for successful applicants) should be submitted through [programs@agrifutures.com.au](mailto:programs@agrifutures.com.au). Any person requiring further advice or information on the program, or submitting an application, is asked to direct enquiries to AgriFutures Australia via [programs@agrifutures.com.au](mailto:programs@agrifutures.com.au).

## Timeframe

All potential applicants are encouraged to read the guidelines carefully to determine their eligibility for funding under the program.

Applications will be open until 12pm Friday 8 April 2022, or until grant funding is exhausted. Please note grants will be reviewed and awarded periodically during this period. If funding is exhausted prior to Friday 8 April, grant applications will therefore be closed.

Proponents should allow four weeks for assessment of applications. Should AgriFutures Australia request further information to support or clarify an application, this information must be provided within the requested timeframe, normally two weeks, or the application may be rejected. All workshop activities must be completed within twelve months of receiving the grant. All reporting requirements are due within one month of the training workshop and associated activities taking place.

## Publicity of grant assistance

AgriFutures Australia disburses public funds and is therefore accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process, AgriFutures Australia may publicise the level of financial assistance, the name of the recipient or

# What is a producer group?

We recognise that the definition of 'producer group' can be wide and varied, so we have provided some guidance below.

- 1 Existing groups that currently deliver capacity building and on-farm extension activities, e.g. farming systems groups, grower groups
- 2 Agribusinesses who have formed groups around their client base and can deliver technology adoption activities, e.g. agronomists, benchmarking groups.
- 3 Landcare groups that deliver on-ground producer training and extension opportunities with an interest in producer technology adoption.
- 4 An industry group/association/organisation with a pre-existing extension arm that undertakes research and extension activities with producers.
- 5 An Agricultural High School is identified for the purpose of this grant as an Agricultural School or College with a designated Agricultural Department.

Groups will be required to demonstrate their experience and capacity to deliver their proposed program. If you're unsure if your group meets the criteria, reach out to us at [programs@agrifutures.com.au](mailto:programs@agrifutures.com.au).

---

# Application and Evaluation Process

## Selection criteria

**Applications are subject to a merit assessment made by AgriFutures Australia. All decisions relating to the outcome of the funding rounds by AgriFutures Australia will be final. Consideration will be given to:**

- 1** The identified impact the tailored program will have on producer technology adoption and uptake.
  - 2** Value for money of proposed activities, for example how many producers will benefit from the funding and what activities are being delivered.
  - 3** The alignment of proposed workshop activities with the identified needs of producers in the group, including eligibility of activities under this program and the manner and degree to which it aligns with the objectives of the program.
  - 4** Previous experience of the producer group to successfully manage similar group capacity building activities and grant funds.
  - 5** Demonstrated capacity of the group to lead and coordinate the local delivery of the workshop and follow-on activities.
  - 6** Demonstrated ability to manage post-grant reporting, including measurement against key performance indicators.
  - 7** The overall quality of the application and detail provided.
-



[agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/  
producer-technology-uptake-program](https://agrifutures.com.au/national-rural-issues/producer-technology-uptake-program)



**AgriFutures<sup>®</sup>**  
National Rural  
Issues