2024 Advancing Research Impact Fund

Program Guide – March 2024

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Section 1. Program Overview

Food from Thought is a research program at the University of Guelph funded in part by a $76.6-million grant from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to position Canada as a global leader in the development of innovative solutions that improve both the sustainability and productivity of agriculture and food production.

Food from Thought fosters agricultural research and innovation by bringing together the University's world-renowned researchers, along with partnerships in industry, decision-makers and other research institutions, to find solutions to key challenges facing food and agriculture today.

Food from Thought has funded projects in the following themes, with leading-edge data science and agri-food innovation continuing to be a focus across all programming:

- Crops
- Livestock
- Pathogens and food safety
- Ecosystems
- Biodiversity
- Integrated food systems
- Digital agriculture

Food from Thought priority areas of impact:

- Agricultural solutions to the biodiversity and climate crises

- Emerging issues in food safety and pathogens

- Building resilient supply chains

The Research Innovation Office, through the Advancing Research Impact Fund (ARIF), in collaboration with Food from Thought, offers funding for knowledge mobilization activities that help move research in these priority areas outside of the university. In this call, we will support projects that align with the priority areas of impact listed above. The primary objective for ARIF is to increase uptake and adoption of research results to create environmental, societal and/or economic impact for Canada outside of academia.

ARIF will engage University of Guelph researchers to extend the reach and impact of the project(s) to additional audiences or respond to novel opportunities. This fund is meant to share research-based knowledge with decision makers and to support implementation or adoption by government, community organizations and industry.

The ARIF will provide up to $30,000 for projects up to 1 year in duration that support the exchange of knowledge between researchers and receptor communities from industry,

government and not-for-profit organizations to the benefit of the environment, society and/or economic development. This knowledge sharing can happen through multiple and complementary avenues, including collaborations and partnership to host events, develop tools or products that share and mobilize knowledge with decision-makers. This fund is reserved for projects relating to agri-food, biodiversity, or other Food from Thought research priorities, though it is not a requirement that the project be otherwise funded by Food from Thought programs. Researchers from any department are welcome to apply.

The Research Innovation Office (RIO) is delivering and administering ARIF. RIO's professional, knowledgeable team brings many years of technology transfer and knowledge mobilization experience and a network of research institutions, academia, mentors and experts, government, and industry to help turn University of Guelph discoveries into innovative solutions that address today's complex challenges.

1.1 Overview

Project Duration: Maximum of 1 year.

Project Start: A project cannot start prior to the approved start date of September 1, 2024. Eligible costs can only be incurred, invoiced and paid for on or after the start date.

Project End: Projects must be completed no later than September 30, 2025 and the final report is due by November 30, 2025.

Funding Available: Project funding requested from Food from Thought ARIF must not exceed $30,000 per project.

Pre-Application Consultation: It is strongly recommended that applicants discuss their proposal with staff at the Research Innovation Office before submission to explore suitability of the project, goals, focus and budget. Please contact Valerie Hruska, Knowledge Mobilization and Communications Coordinator, at vhruska@uoguelph.ca for support.

1.2 Eligible Applicants

To apply for the *2024 Advancing Research Impact Fund*, researchers must:

- Hold a faculty or adjunct faculty position at the University of Guelph;
- Be eligible for Tri-Agency grants.

Researchers who meet the criteria are permitted to engage in multiple projects. However, they are restricted to serving as the Principal Investigator (project lead) for only one project, even if they have multiple fundable proposals. This guideline is applicable to both the 2024 ARIF Knowledge Mobilization Grant Program and the 2024 ARIF Commercialization Grant Program.

1.3 Eligible Projects & Activities

Eligible projects are those requiring assistance to support uptake and adoption of research results to create environmental, societal and/or economic impact for Canada. Eligible activities are those that support researchers in their efforts to share research related to Food from Thought priorities outside of academia.

Note: Dissemination or knowledge mobilization activities that were proposed or budgeted for in other Food from Thought Project(s) are <u>not</u> eligible for funding through the ARIF.

Knowledge mobilization focuses on making connections between research and end-users (e.g., farmers, policymakers, industry, or other agricultural organizations) to move knowledge into active use. It includes engagement with end-users throughout the research process, as well as the synthesis, interpretation, and dissemination of knowledge into an appropriate language and format for uptake and real-world application.

Ideal proposals will improve the delivery of information between researchers and relevant end users or intermediary organizations.

Project activities might include (but are not limited to):

- **Engagement** with end users in existing or newly funded projects to better understand and address end-user needs or **collaboration** to apply research results
- **Integration** or synthesis of research knowledge to collate research findings from across projects and disciplines and improve end-user application
- Development of **media, tools, or products** (software, apps, case studies or other products)
- Innovative **communication** products (webinars, videos, interactive social media campaigns, etc.)
- **Events*** to share information with and learn from end-users, including workshops, demonstration days, or other in-person or online events
- Development of **guidelines, training manuals,** or other documents or publications**

* Please note that funding for HQP at academic conferences is provided through the FfT Conference Bursary; as such, <u>conference attendance for HQP is not an eligible expense</u>.

** Open Access (OA), which entails disseminating scholarship free of cost to all readers, can be part of an effective knowledge mobilization strategy. There are multiple routes to making scholarship openly available to a wide audience (including non-academics). While some publishers charge APCs (Article Processing Charges) to make works open access, not all do. McLaughlin Library has negotiated [APC discounts and waivers](#) with some publishers. Most publishers allow for the self-archiving of accepted manuscripts in the Atrium, the University of Guelph's open access repository, or various disciplinary repositories. We strongly encourage researchers to review McLaughlin Library's resources to understand your options. Librarians are available to provide advice and resources on open publishing and dissemination. Please

contact them at lib.research@uoguelph.ca.

Although APCs can be eligible expenses under the knowledge mobilization stream, simply making a publication open access is <u>not</u> enough to ensure that knowledge reaches the right audience using the right format and language to support uptake. Thus, any request for an APC <u>must</u> be paired with other activities that accelerate the sharing of that knowledge to non-academic audiences and must explain why an open access publication, in combination with other planned activities, is an effective knowledge mobilization strategy for the specified audience(s).

1.4 Timelines & Deadlines

Call for Proposals Posted	March 26, 2024
Submission Deadline	May 31, 2024
Notification of Award	June 28, 2024*
Project Start Date	No sooner than September 1, 2024
Project End Date	No later than September 30, 2025
Final Report Deadline	November 30, 2025

*Subject to change

1.5 Proposal Review

Research proposals will be evaluated by a review panel of subject matter experts in KMb. All proposals will be evaluated against the review criteria listed and described in this document. Project proposals must continue to support a plan to enhance and promote Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) during the project. The Food from Thought team will make the final decision on all project funding, which may include strategic considerations, program-level considerations, and EDI goals.

 All proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- **Fit with audience need:** The proposal must clearly identify a need for or interest in this knowledge in the end-user community. Ideally, proposals will demonstrate end-user interest or involvement in the project.
- **Knowledge mobilization strategy:** The proposal must include a strong plan to exchange knowledge with ecosystem partners and maximize end-user adoption of the knowledge in question.
- **HQP training:** The proposal should include creative, innovative and multi-disciplinary opportunities to provide Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) with training and experience in knowledge mobilization.

- **Potential for impact:** The proposal must demonstrate that through the proposed activities, it advances the potential for impact and advancement of Food from Thought objectives for the target end-user audience. Consideration should be given to how this impact will be measurably assessed.
- **Strength of the Project Team:** The project team should be composed of highly accomplished researchers, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and industry professionals (optional), and should reflect the necessary expertise required to address the proposed scope of work. A diversified team is a strength.
- **Budget:** The budget should be appropriate to the proposed scope and intended outcomes and demonstrate value for the funding requested. Although not required, cash or in-kind contributions from project partners are a strong mechanism to demonstrate interest in and commitment to the proposed project.
- **Project management plan:** Proposals must have a clear work plan to ensure the project proceeds on time and on budget.

Section 2. How to Apply

All documents, aside from the Project Budget form (in Excel), should be submitted as a single PDF. Complete applications for the Advancing Research Impact Fund must include:

- Application (template provided)
- Completed [OR-5 Form](#)
- Letters of Support signed by industry partner(s) demonstrating interest or committing cash or in-kind (if applicable)[1]
- Budget spreadsheet (in Excel – template provided)

Complete applications must be submitted electronically to Valerie Hruska, vhruska@uoguelph.ca **and** Michelle Stringer, ebling@uoguelph.ca by **noon (12pm) on May 31, 2024**.

Section 3. Project Administration

Upon acceptance of the award, the Principal Investigator (PI) for each approved project must submit the following materials:

- An updated project budget (if applicable)
- Conflict of Interest Declaration & Management Plan (if applicable/requested)
- Additional data describing the Project (if requested)
- A data management plan developed in cooperation with the library (if applicable/requested)

For issuance of the award, the PI will be asked to sign a funding agreement. Any PI that has requested funding for APCs must work with McLaughlin Library to ensure compliance with the

Tri-Agency open access policies.

This grant is governed by the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) of the Government of Canada, which has specific rules and requirements which all project investigators must adhere. The PI must ensure that project expenses budgeted and charged to the Food from Thought award are eligible and in accordance with CFREF rules and requirements developed by TIPS, as outlined in the CFREF Administration Guide (see attachment). Any ineligible expenses charged to the Food from Thought award will not be covered by Food from Thought and the investigator will be responsible for the payment of ineligible expenses from other sources.

PIs are required to provide an annual report on the overall project and associated project deliverables to the Food from Thought Project Office by the end of each fiscal year (ending March 31st) during which CFREF funds are held. This reporting will be in a format determined by the Food from Thought Project Office for the purposes of supporting institutional reporting requirements on the CFREF grant to TIPS.

PIs will be required to provide project information to the Food from Thought Communications Coordinator for the purposes of showcasing and sharing project results on the Food from Thought website, social media, and for other communications (both internal and external audiences).

Upon project completion, PIs will be required to upload their dissemination materials/documents to the Atrium, the University of Guelph open access repository, as compliant with related policies and agreements on information sharing that may apply. All products, including documents, videos, social media, websites and other media are required to be accessible, in accordance with AODA standards. For more information on AODA requirements and best practices, please visit the AODA Resources or contact the Digital Accessibility Resource Centre at darc@uoguelph.ca.

Questions

For a copy of the Application, additional information, or guidance please contact Valerie Hruska at vhruska@uoguelph.ca.

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[1] Eligibility and valuation of in-kind contributions to a project should be based on tri-agency guidelines. Cash and in-kind contributions must be pro-rated to match the project term (i.e., between start and end dates). Optional letters of support should be on letterhead and signed by an authorized signing officer. If in-kind is being provided the valuation details should be included in the letter.