THE GREENHOUSE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Mobilizing innovators to adapt the Canadian greenhouse industry to the challenges of tomorrow.

What is it?

The Greenhouse Innovation Challenge is a five-month program connecting greenhouse growers with emerging innovators, industry experts and mentors to explore solutions to real-world challenges.

Led by Sustainable Food Systems for Canada (SF4C), the Challenge brings industry needs together with promising ideas, research and specialized expertise to help move solutions toward testing, implementation and potential adoption.

What are we looking for?

Greenhouse growers with a challenge worth solving.
We invite you to identify an operational challenge or opportunity from your greenhouse that could benefit from fresh thinking, new technologies or collaborative problem-solving.

We're particularly interested in challenges that could help improve efficiency, increase production and strengthen the sustainability of existing practices, as well as opportunities to reconfigure operations to support job creation and technology adoption. Challenges that could help build a stronger evidence base for indoor growing practices across Canada are also welcome. The Greenhouse Challenge is designed to support projects at Readiness Levels 2–6, from concept development and validation (RL2–3) to prototype development and testing (RL4–5) and demonstration with initial market engagement (RL6).

As an industry partner, you'll bring your practical knowledge and real-world perspective into a five-month process of mentorship, solution development and refinement. While there is no financial contribution expected, industry partners can expect to spend 2-4 hours/week of checking in with their team during the 5 month challenge.

Timeline

November-December 2026
Recruitment

January 2027
Program kickoff

February–March 2027
Project scoping

April–May 2027
Validation and planning

June 2027
Showcase and implementation pathways

Have a challenge?

Help shape the future of greenhouse innovation with a real-world challenge from your operation! Email jeannar@uoguelph.ca for more information. Scan this QR code to apply.

ARRELL FOOD INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

SF4C Sustainable Food Systems for Canada
Systèmes alimentaires durables pour le Canada

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