

Innovation Booster Project Descriptions

GUELPH, ON, DECEMBER 16, 2025 — Funding from this round of CFIN’s Innovation Booster Program will support nine innovative foodtech projects with transformative potential for Canada’s food sector. Below are more details regarding the funded projects.

Project Lead: [Colibri Vanilla](#) (Quebec)

Project Title: Innovanilla Project

Funding: \$99,999

Colibri Vanilla is advancing the next phase of its clean-label vanilla extraction technology. Working with CÉPROCQ, the company will develop two new products for the food industry: an MCT-based vanilla extract designed for better flavour performance in fat-based recipes, and a shelf-stable vanilla powder with improved solubility and consistency. The project will move from early proof-of-concept to industrial-scale validation, helping bring a scalable, sustainable source of natural vanilla ingredients to Canadian food manufacturers.

“In this space where matter is reinvented and science shapes what’s possible, every aromatic vanilla molecule becomes a territory to conquer.”

— Chantale Caron, VP Innovation, Research & Development

Project Lead: [Revo Biochem](#) (Alberta)

Project Title: Food-Grade Absciscic Acid (ABA) Production via Fermentation

Funding: \$99,617

Revo Biochem is developing a fermentation-based production system for food-grade absciscic acid (ABA), a naturally occurring bioactive compound used in nutrition, functional foods, and in agriculture. The project will validate their biosynthetic ABA platform and

optimize fermentation processes to meet food-grade purity standards. The result will be a sustainable, low-cost Canadian supply of ABA that reduces reliance on plant extraction and petrochemical routes while positioning Canada as a leader in bio-based food and agricultural innovation.

“This project demonstrates Revo’s robust biosynthetic platform and a clear pathway to scale, enabling the production of high-quality biocompounds right here in Canada. We are grateful for CFIN's funding as it will help accelerate our work to provide a dependable domestic supply of ABA for food and agricultural uses.”

— **Vikram Dhaliwal, COO & Co-founder, Revo Biochem**

Project Lead: [ThisFish](#) (British Columbia)

Project Title: TallyVision: The World’s Largest AI Model Library for Seafood Processing

Funding: \$99,073

ThisFish Inc. will expand its TallyVision platform—an automated, computer-vision inspection system already deployed for salmon and tuna—to new species including shrimp, lobster, squid, and whitefish. The project will grow TallyVision’s AI model library and integrate it with processing-line equipment to measure quality and equipment effectiveness in real time. By adding to its automated inspection capabilities, the platform will help more processors cut labour costs, reduce waste, and generate precise digital records for traceability and compliance.

"We're excited to receive this CFIN grant to help us build the world's largest library of AI models for visual inspection in seafood processing. Computer vision technology has the potential to exponentially improve food inspection since every fish and fillet is photographed and inspected. At the same time, our AI-enabled smart camera will automate an incredibly manual task and thereby reduce costs for seafood businesses. It's a win-win for quality and productivity."

— **Eric Enno Tamm, CEO & Co-Founder, ThisFish**

Project Lead: [Hinbor](#) (British Columbia)

Project Title: Hinbor AI

Funding: \$98,747

Hinbor is building an AI-driven personalization and logistics platform for the quick-service-restaurant (QSR) sector. The system combines real-time customer analytics, demand forecasting, and automated campaign execution to increase sales and reduce waste without adding labour. This project will refine Hinbor's machine-learning models and validate performance across QSR partners—including more than 2,000 restaurants such as A&W—to demonstrate measurable gains in retention and supply-chain efficiency.

"We're super excited to change the way people eat, and the way QSRs operate, with our Hinbor AI. Thanks so much CFIN for the tremendous support!"

— Jack Jia, CEO, Hinbor

Project Lead: [BetterCart Analytics](#) (Saskatchewan)

Project Title: Fueling a Smarter, More Competitive Canadian Food Sector with Data

Funding: \$95,518

BetterCart Analytics is building a powerful new way for food companies to access and understand market data in real-time. By integrating advanced natural language capabilities powered by large language models (LLMs) and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), a highly intuitive interface capable of turning complex market signals into clear, accessible insights will be realized. This project paves the way for transformative industry-leading technology that democratizes access to market intelligence, strengthens the competitiveness of emerging and established food companies, and supports a more informed, resilient Canadian food ecosystem.

"Our funded innovation will allow small and mid-sized food and beverage companies to ask plain-language questions about pricing, competitors, market trends, promotions, and white-space, and receive immediate, data-grounded insights. Instead of relying on specialized analysts or costly third-party tools, users will be able to explore their competitive landscape, uncover more opportunities pre-market/in-market, and make confident, evidence-based decisions in seconds through our development of retrieval-

augmented generation. We are thrilled to have received funding from CFIN's Innovation Booster program and look forward to building this industry-changing technology.”

— **Melanie Morrison, PhD, CEO & Founder, BetterCart Analytics**

Project Lead: [U Technology Corporation](#) (Alberta)

Project Title: BrightHarvest Technology Validation for Fresh Produce

Funding: \$95,000

U Technology will validate BrightHarvest, a non-destructive optical-sensing system that extends the shelf life of fresh produce by up to 40%. Partnering with Sobeys Inc., the team will conduct combined in-store and laboratory testing to quantify freshness gains for misted and packaged produce. The project will generate commercial-scale data on quality, shrinkage reduction, and integration feasibility—building a roadmap for national deployment and significantly reducing food waste across Canada’s supply chain.

“We’re honoured to work with CFIN to support the demonstration of how our advanced lighting technology can help solve one of Canada’s biggest food challenges.”

— **Kam Hammad, CEO, U Technology Corporation**

Project Lead: [CO₂Brew](#) (Alberta)

Project Title: Commercial Development and Design Optimization of a CO₂ Recovery System

Funding: \$90,000

CO₂Brew is building its first commercial unit for an innovative carbon-recovery system tailored to craft breweries. The system captures high-purity CO₂ from fermentation, purifies and stores it as liquid, and recycles it for reuse, reducing a brewery’s GHG emissions while providing a self-sufficient supply of beverage-grade CO₂. This project phase covers engineering, fabrication, and installation of the unit, demonstrating scalability and economic viability for the craft brewing sector.

“At CO₂Brew, we’re committed to creating a circular economy for craft breweries. By capturing and reusing CO₂ from fermentation, we transform emissions into a valuable resource, helping breweries cut their carbon footprint while closing the loop on sustainability”

— Karen Ngo, COO, CO₂Brew

Project Lead: [Localize Your Food](#) (Alberta)

Project Title: Automated Verification Technology for Canadian Food Transparency

Funding: \$53,055

Localize Your Food is building a CFIA-compliant, pan-Canadian product-identity verification system to authenticate origin and production claims in grocery stores. The project will expand its national database, develop AI modules to automate auditing, and add new user interfaces for retail and producer access. By reducing manual verification and fraud risk, the system will strengthen consumer trust and streamline Buy Local and regional sourcing programs nationwide.

"We founded Localize to make it easier for Canadians to understand where their food comes from and to help Canadian makers stand out on crowded shelves. CFIN’s support accelerates that mission. It enables us to build technology that lifts Canadian manufacturers, empowers shoppers, and gives retailers the tools they’ve long been asking for. We’re honoured to move this work forward together."

— Meghan Dear, CEO, Localize Your Food

Project Lead: [BetterTable Solutions](#) (British Columbia)

Project Title: BetterTable™ App: A Novel Food Sustainability Scoring Tool

Funding: \$37,500

Better Table Solutions is developing an AI-assisted mobile application to help restaurants cut food waste by up to 50% and track progress toward Net Zero targets. The project will translate the company’s validated manual food-audit method into a digital platform that automates carbon-footprint and cost metrics, maps data to UN Sustainable Development

Goals, and generates real-time recommendations. Pilot tests across multiple restaurant types will verify accuracy and commercial impact, creating a scalable tool for the foodservice industry.

"We're honoured that CFIN selected BetterTable as an Innovation Booster recipient. This grant will empower food and beverage operations to advance the vital work of making commercial kitchens both more sustainable and more profitable."

— Ben Liegey, Founder & CEO, BetterTable Solutions