

INNOVATION TABLE

*Prairie Food Link
Mentorship Program!*



TOP 10 BENEFITS of BEING A MENTOR!

1. Shape the Next Generation of Food Innovators

Mentors directly influence emerging processors, founders, and agri-food entrepreneurs, helping them commercialize products, navigate regulations, and scale responsibly.

2. Strengthen the Regional Food Ecosystem

By mentoring within a structured program, you contribute to a stronger prairie and Canadian agri-food value chain - from field, stream or forest to finished product.

3. Gain Early Insight into Emerging Trends

Mentors often see innovation first: new ingredients, plant-based developments, ag-tech integration, packaging shifts, and evolving consumer preferences.

4. Expand Strategic Industry Connections

Mentorship programs connect you to processors, investors, ecosystem builders, and fellow mentors. All with the purpose of strengthening collaboration across the food and beverage sector.

5. Reinforce Your Position as an Industry Leader

Serving as a mentor enhances credibility and visibility within the agri-food community and positions you as a champion of sector growth.

6. Develop Advanced Leadership & Coaching Skills

Working with founders and growth-stage entrepreneurs sharpens strategic thinking, listening skills, and advisory capacity — especially around scaling, financing, and operations.

7. Contribute to Sector Succession & Talent Retention

Food processing and value-added agriculture require succession planning. Mentorship helps retain talent and ensure institutional knowledge stays within the ecosystem.

8. Increase Personal Fulfillment Through Impact

Supporting entrepreneurs as they overcome supply chain challenges, market entry hurdles, or regulatory barriers provides tangible, meaningful impact.

9. Broaden Your Perspective Across the Value Chain

Mentors often engage with businesses across production, processing, branding, logistics, and export. This strengthens holistic sector understanding.

10. Leave a Legacy in Canada's Food Innovation Economy

By investing time in emerging companies, mentors help build a resilient, competitive agri-food sector that drives economic growth and food security.

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Innovation Table is a collaboration between the Raj Manek Mentorship Program and Prairie Food Link.