

# final report

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## Thomas Foods Collaborative Innovation Program professional Development

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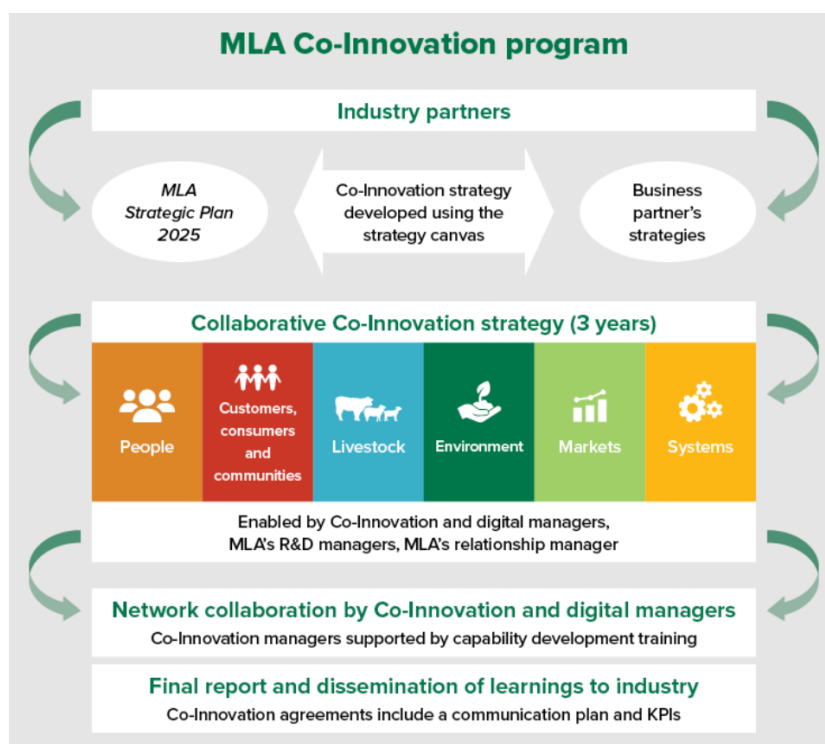
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## Executive summary

Innovation Managers are appointed for all companies participating in MLA’s Collaborative Innovation Strategies Partnership (CISP) program. A key component of MLA’s support for the CISP is the innovation capability development of both the company and the Innovation Manager (IM) (P.PIP.5010) to drive change. This extends to both on the job and formal skills capability development through attendance at workshops, specific training programs and attendance at conferences.

This is a final report reflecting the activities and learnings from Thomas Foods International (TFI) Innovation Manager.

Note: More recently, MLA has re-launched CISP as ‘the Co-Innovation Manager’ program. For more information see: <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/business-management/co-innovation-program/> For more information see: <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/business-management/co-innovation-program/>



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## 1 Background

This program coincides with Thomas Foods International (TFI) P.PIP.5010 CISP program across 3 years to equip the IM and other champions across the TFI network to embrace innovation across the value chain and not be solely limited to product or process innovation. The program will include workshops and courses for participants to apply the concepts for nurturing a creative culture to their own organisations and to craft their own innovation strategies and will encompass– reflect – act in the build and design approach of developing innovation capability.

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## 2 Project Objective

The objective is this research project was to develop TFI Innovation Manager (IM) and champion(s)' skills sets through structure learning and development activities to further contribute to the development and implementation of TFI's Collaborative Innovation Strategy Program.

## 3 Professional development undertaken

During the project period, the learning activities were undertaken including:

- UQ Business School – Innovation course to test business model canvas methodologies for new TFI projects development.
- Attendance at IFFA to ensure up-to-date reference of new and emerging technologies
- Master of Agribusiness at the University of Adelaide. It is expected that the Master of Agribusiness will be completed by the end of 2020 – the following subjects have been completed as part of this project;
  - Global Food & Agriculture Markets
  - Innovation Systems & Policy
  - Accounting Essentials
  - Economic Principles
  - People & Organisations
  - Research Project Part 1
  - Business Performance Improvement
  - Cross Cultural Management and Negotiations
  - Management and Performance of Global Food Chains.

## 4 Conclusion

Reflecting on the strategic focus areas of Thomas Foods International Collaborative Innovation Strategies program (P.PIP.5010) which included broad initiatives in the key business areas of:

- Producer engagement strategy development (development of a differentiated offering both supply and demand side )
- Food Safety E-coli management strategies
- Processing efficacy / processing automation
- Environmental sustainability management (on and off farm)
- People, Culture & Capability
- Strategic marketing & product innovation (including engagement of market economic services
- Development of supply chain engagement strategies, providing MLA the opportunity to influence on farm communication through the collaborative development such strategies.

The professional development activity undertaken through this project satisfied the project objective of innovation capability development of both the company and the Innovation Manager (IM) as demonstrated through the ultimate success and impact of Thomas Foods Collaborative innovation program P.PIP.5010