



AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION INQUIRY

Submission #2 to the Standing Committee on
Agriculture & Innovation

Mr Chris Wilkins - CEO PodPlants





Dear Sir/Madam

Concerning the Agricultural Innovation Inquiry:

I was pleased to hear that the Parliaments Standing Committee on Agriculture and Innovation will be conducting an inquiry into a report on Agricultural Innovation. In this second submission, I wish to express concern that there is insufficient support for advancing urban agriculture in Australia.

Urban agriculture also known as 'city farming' is to many people a foreign concept, yet history shows us that agriculture has its roots firmly planted in the urban setting. From the birth of human civilisations, towns and villages have intrinsically been places of agricultural practice and trade. It is only in very recent times that inventions like refrigeration and the combustion engine have allowed for agriculture to be conducted in remote locations.

As developing nations increasingly have a greater demand for the quantity of food they require, and developed nations have an increasing demand for the quality of food they desire. I believe that urban agriculture will play a critical role in our nations future supplying fresh produce that is grown on the roof of the very building that it is consumed within.

Producing large volumes of food in a short amount of time in a small space is becoming more and more common in places like Japan and Singapore where companies such as Toshiba and Panasonic are using advanced technology to produce edible crops inside factories.



Through the use of innovative and existing technology like hydroponics, LED lighting and climate control, these intensified agricultural centres are capable of producing huge volumes of produce without reliance on external weather conditions. Operating without soil, these systems deliver a perfect balance of nutrients and water directly to the plants to deliver produce of greater nutritional value.

**Read about
it here**

In China, the government now requires that all new housing developments have adequate local agricultural production with a dedicated portion of new technologies. A program that is already attracting Australian companies away from Australia.

As a great food producing nation with a proud history of innovation, Australia should foster an environment where agricultural innovation transcends just incremental improvements in traditional methods and explore revolutionary methods such as the establishment of high tech factory farms and innovative rooftop greenhouses on our cities existing buildings.

Regards

Chris Wilkins

