



tia
TASMANIAN
INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURE



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA



Tasmanian
Government

TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government

NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Friday, 19 February 2016

US shows keen interest in Tasmanian agriculture and food science innovation

Innovation in Tasmania's agriculture and food sciences research and training is attracting the attention of US investors and research institutes.

The [Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture](#) (TIA) is this week exploring international connections and investments that could benefit Tasmania and Australia as part of the inaugural Australia United States Business Week delegation to the US led by the Australian Government.

TIA Director Professor Holger Meinke and TIA Food Systems Centre Leader Professor Mark Tamplin are in Chicago as members of an Austrade mission on Agribusiness and Food Science.

"This mission and the keen interest shown by potential US partners demonstrates Tasmania's international standing in agriculture and food systems research, particularly in precision irrigation, food innovation, food technology and food safety," Professor Meinke said.

"Our efforts in research and training are being recognised by our US partners with particular interest in Tasmania's ability to produce high-quality premium produce.

"Chicago is the primary hub of US agribusiness and home to numerous food-processing multinationals, making it a great place in which to stimulate interest in Australian agribusiness innovation and commercialisation.

"Illinois is in the centre of the Corn Belt with a gross state product of US\$745 billion, which makes it the 19th biggest economy in the world. It gives us a great opportunity to showcase our innovation across the value chain, from plant health to advanced food processing, during investment roundtables, site visits and market briefings."

Halfway through the two-day program, TIA has already identified excellent opportunities for Tasmania, including joint training of scientists.

"The [Institute for Food Safety and Health](#) (IFSH), which is a joint venture between the Illinois Institute of Technology and the USA Food and Drug Administration, has a strong focus on training the next generation of scientists in innovative food technologies and has one of the world's largest enrolments in a Master of Food Safety course," Professor Tamplin said.

"TIA and IFSH are exploring joint student mobility programs at both the Master and PhD levels."

Leading US land grant university [Kansas State University](#) (KSU), which shares common programmatic structures in research, education, and extension with TIA, is also interested in collaborating in the areas of education and research.

"An early outcome of the Austrade mission is a joint interest in collaborative degrees, with KSU planning to visit Tasmania in late May this year to progress this idea," Professor Meinke said.

"We also discussed research collaborations in the areas of grain, beef, dairy, food safety and biosecurity, which are all priority areas for both Tasmania and Kansas."

TIA is a joint venture of the University of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government.

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015 National Report released last December awarded the University of Tasmania the highest possible rating of 5 (well above world standard) in the areas of agriculture, land and farm management and horticultural production - the only Australian university to receive the top rating in both of these areas.

Information released by:

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Phone: 61 3 6226 6216
Email: tia.comms@utas.edu.au