

Agritech Unleashed

8 May - Foodeast Haumako, Hastings

8.30am	Registration opens + Tea & coffee
9.00am	Mihi Whakatau (welcome)
	<p><u>Fireside chat and Q&A:</u></p> <p>Backing the Future - where farm/orchard investment meets scalable agritech</p> <p>Paul Burns will share a strategic investor perspective on the intersection of capital, operational performance, and technology adoption in land-based enterprises.</p> <p>Paul Burns, Head of Acquisitions at Craigmores Sustainable</p>
	<p><u>Tech that Fits: Lessons from the frontlines of integration in growing and post-harvest</u></p> <p>The session will explore technology adoption in commercial horticulture, focusing on how tools and systems are selected, integrated, and scaled across growing and post-harvest environments. The goal is to surface lessons learned, reveal practical realities, and share insights into the value of data, investment triggers, and change management.</p> <p>We're delighted to have two speakers with real-world experience and global outlooks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cameron Taylor, Grower / Export Manager, Taylor Corporation• Morgan Rogers, General Manager VentureFruit (A T&G Global company)
10:30am	Morning tea break
	<p><u>Beyond the Pitch: the human stories behind agritech innovation</u></p> <p>Beyond the Pitch explores the often unseen emotional and relational journeys of agritech innovation. It's about what it really takes to build, and support, an agritech venture, from belief and resilience to backing and reinvention.</p> <p>We'll also look at the importance of choosing aligned global-scale partners and the role of effective feedback loops, understanding which challenges you can influence and which require adaptation or support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chelsea Hirst, Head of Acceleration and Engagement, Sprout Agritech• Andrew Kersley, CEO of Smart Machine

Lessons from the Lion City: global food innovation insights for Aotearoa

This session brings to the stage three AgriTechNZ Council members who recently returned from the FoodHQ study tour to Singapore. They explored one of the world's most progressive food and agritech innovation ecosystems on the tour. The tour, supported by ASB and AgMardt, exposed participants to Singapore's deeply connected innovation landscape, global partnerships, regulatory agility, and bold food security strategies.

This panel reflects on the insights, provocations, and comparisons sparked by that experience, and asks how we might sharpen New Zealand's approach to food system innovation through a more global lens.

- Tammy Lemire, Chief Technology & Digital Officer at Pāmu
- Chelsea Hirst, Head of Acceleration and Engagement, Sprout Agritech
- Chris Kerr, Policy Director, Strategy, Insights & Evidence

12.30pm

Lunch proudly supported by Agmardt

1:30pm

Concurrent sessions

Attendees will be divided into two groups and experience both Tech Talks and the Field Trip.

Group 1

Field Trip: Innovation in action from a producer's perspective

- A visit to Taylor Corporation Limited

Group 2

Tech talks: The tech story and their view on the future of their sector

- Bridgit Hawkins, Chief Sustainability Officer, CropX Technologies/Chair of Bovonic and Chair of AgriTech New Zealand.
- Mark Bart, CEO/Scientist, Newton Group and Metris Limited
- Richard Beaumont, Founder and Director of Agovor
- Hamish Penny, Founder and CEO at Croptide

4:30pm

Networking drinks and canapes

6:00pm

Event closes