

Sustainable agriculture in the spotlight at Australia's largest ever agricultural innovation trade fair

The Australian government is pushing for agriculture to become a \$100 billion industry by 2030 – and with the QLD government aiming to double the state's food production by 2040, the leading authority on sustainable food production and agriculture is hosting an event in Brisbane designed to showcase sustainable growing practices and new agricultural technologies. The Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture (GFIA) In Focus Australia event will take place on November 27-28. Exhibiting the latest sustainable ag-tech innovations and technology from suppliers across all types of food production, it's set to be Australia's largest ever agricultural innovation trade fair. The event will place a particular focus on 'growing sustainably' and 'unlocking new technology', with more than 2,000 delegates expected to attend from across the Asia Pacific. Featuring two adjacent exhibitions, the first will present Controlled Environments & Protected Cropping, and the second will focus on Precision Agriculture and Smart Farming products. Within 'Controlled Environments', exhibitors will promote the latest greenhouses, system integrators, control systems and hydroponic, aquaponic and aeroponic systems – and the 'Precision Agriculture' sector will cover everything from data analytics and modeling to harvesting and irrigation equipment, seeding and planting equipment and GPS systems. A high-level conference programme will also run during the event – and for David Stradling, Sales Director of One CMG Group, the company behind GFIA In Focus, the event is "a rare opportunity to learn from agriculture food producers, policy makers and investors about the latest innovations and technologies for smart food production." Among the confirmed exhibitors will be the creators of Ceres Tag, a new generation of smart ear tags for livestock provenance and management. CEO & Development Director David Smith described their livestock smart ear tags, which aspire to be National Traceability compliant and feature GPS positioning, movement and health monitoring abilities as a major step forward for the industry. "The benefits for Australian farmers are huge, being economic, environmental and social, and the tag can support everything from theft reduction and health and biosecurity safeguards to finance improvement, risk reduction, operational efficiency and land-use optimisation. "This event delivers an unrivalled opportunity for us to meet thousands of potential buyers of sustainable agriculture technology," he continued. "I'm excited to exhibit at GFIA and raise awareness of our product to Australian graziers." Also present will be multi-level indoor growing company Vertical Farm Systems, who will showcase their fully automated technology for growing commercial crops all year round, in any climate or location. Executive Director & Design Engineer John Leslie described the new system as the next generation of indoor growing solutions built for profitability more than spectacle. "Over the past 9 years we have refined the system automation to achieve the best return on investment yields we have seen in the sector. Of the 28 system sizes we supply, our smallest uses only 500 square metres of floor area, yet the 20 tons annual harvest rate is the same as 8 acres of prime agricultural land. The bioponic live microbe based growing system delivers a major reduction in water use, with zero chemicals, pest issues or crop losses, and it can be installed in very close proximity to the end user - – all of which is fantastic for sustainable farming." One CMG Group Sales Director David Stradling described the significance of the event for Australian agriculture. "GFIA In Focus is intended to help Australian agri-businesses share knowledge, so we can continue to develop sustainable farming into the future. There are some incredibly innovative technologies and practices out there, and we're excited to host what's going to be an inspiring and highly informative event for attendees." Don't miss out. Visit www.gfiaaustralia.com to register your attendance. Entry is free, but there are only 2,000 tickets available. Event details: GFIA In Focus Australia 27 November 2018: 09.00 – 18.00 28 November 2018: 09.00 – 16.00 Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre About GFIA The Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture has emerged as a global authority on sustainable food production, driving innovation through exhibitions and conferences across the globe. GFIA exhibitions have welcomed more than 25,000 visitors, and worked with over 50 international partners to showcase innovative products with a proven benefit to the agricultural industry. Their conferences offer stakeholders pioneering forums and marketplaces to foster meaningful dialogue, collaboration, recognition and action between regional food producers, buyers, innovators, policy makers and investors. Media Enquiries: C7EVEN Communications Adam Arndell (02) 6766 4513 / 0403 372 889 adam.arndell@c7even.com.au Kate Munsie (02) 6766 4513 / 0421 935 843 kate.munsie@c7even.com.au Photo captions: David Smith, Ceres Tag CEO & Development Director John Leslie, Vertical Farm Systems Executive Director & Design Engineer

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