



# Continuing Professional Development

## Education and continuing professional development

Nelson Mandela said education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

The world of food science and technology is changing rapidly and, as an industry, we need to ensure we keep up to date with changes.

Education is a major focus for AIFST, built around our key priorities of grow, learn, connect and champion.

## Why a CPD program?

In today's increasingly competitive and changing world, food scientists and technologists must stay at the cutting edge of new developments throughout their careers. It is no longer possible to rely on basic studies or on-the-job training to provide professional advice and service to our employers, customers and clients.

This means to continually improve our technical knowledge and skills we need to engage in continuing professional development (CPD). AIFST also recognises that in modern organisations, food scientists and technologists are increasingly responsible for developing their own careers. CPD allows you to enhance your future.

A CPD program reflects the professionalism of the members, improves their professional standing and enhances their employability by formalising and documenting CPD activities. It assists in keeping knowledge up to date and illustrates an ability to adapt to changing roles in the food industry and food production environment. Ensuring currency in a complex job market can be difficult and companies look for staff who bring a broad range of skills.

## What is a CPD program?

A continuing professional development program is an active self-planned and structured program for developing and enhancing your professional skills. Ideally, the program is designed with clear objectives, extends your professional knowledge and capabilities, and allows you to engage in a broad range of activities to increase your career options.

## The AIFST CPD program

The AIFST CPD program was launched in 2019. It is voluntary and designed to encourage members to maintain currency of skills and knowledge and assist with career planning. It will provide recognition

of experience and interests and align food scientists with other well-respected professions.

Much of AIFST members' skill set is developed over their working life but is not always part of their formal qualifications. The CPD program is intended to provide recognition of these activities and skills by formalising and recording the process in a straightforward and transportable way.

The best outcome for the food science community is to develop a recognised professional identity. The competence of members is vital to the development and credibility of food science practitioners and AIFST is committed to providing value to members by developing and supporting this program.

## How do I get involved?

Keep an eye out for member communications, visit the CPD page on the AIFST website or contact AIFST ([education@aifst.com.au](mailto:education@aifst.com.au)).

