



vineland
RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE

Canadian Upcycled Food Networking Event

Summer 2025

Sparking Industry Collaboration



INNOVATIVE INDUSTRY NETWORKING AT MISSISSAUGA GRAND BANQUET & EVENT CENTRE

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre hosted a free networking event at the Mississauga Grand Banquet and Event Centre to spotlight the current landscape of the Canadian food upcycling sector.

Vineland, supported by the [CIFST Food Cluster](#) and the [Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance](#), delivered this event to accelerate knowledge-sharing and innovation in local food upcycling. Attendees included researchers, industry leaders, startups, and government representatives keen on collaborative innovation.

Dr. Alexandra Grygorczyk set the stage for the day, with an insightful overview of Canada's upcycling landscape, drawing on data gathered through interviews with industry stakeholders.



Key Highlights

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lara Ramdin, a systems-and-design-thinking expert with executive experience at Unilever, Estée Lauder, Molson Coors, Dole Sunshine, and Upcycled Foods Inc. She advocates for circular food systems and the “food-as-medicine” movement.

Networking Opportunities: Attendees included researchers, industry leaders, startups, and government representatives keen on collaborative innovation.



“We’re shifting food systems from extractive to circular models,”

“This event opens pathways for nutritious, sustainable foods in Canada.”

Dr. Lara Ramdin



Discussion Panel: Douglas Alexander, Ricardo Martinez, Dr. Lara Ramdin, and Stephen Lukawski (shown left to right) explored the key challenges facing the upcycling industry.

The panel shared potential solutions and highlighted opportunities to strengthen collaboration across the sector.

Key Pillars of Support Identified:

- Driving consumer adoption and engaging retailers
- Strengthening supply chain reliability
- Bridging commercialization and applied research
- Addressing regulatory and food safety considerations.



“Our goal is to connect innovators and fuel action in upcycling across the food sector.”

Dr. Alexandra Grygorczyk

Industry 'Blitz' Presentations:

Thirty-five companies from across the upcycling sector delivered concise 90-second overviews of their businesses, highlighting opportunities for collaboration across the value chain.

These rapid-fire presentations sparked meaningful conversations and helped foster a dynamic, engaging atmosphere throughout the event.



Stay Connected

A comprehensive public report detailing the event's key findings will be released in the coming months. Register to be notified as soon as it becomes available.

[Register](#)

Get Involved

Opportunities are available for industry champions, researchers, startups, and agri-food stakeholders to participate in future programs.

Reach out: info@vinelandresearch.com

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre drives horticultural innovation to support a more sustainable, competitive, and resilient agri-food sector. By bridging science and industry, we help growers, producers, and processors adopt solutions that strengthen Canada's food systems for a sustainable future.

To learn more about Vineland, visit
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