



F3 Innovate

Position Title: Member of the Board of Directors

Location: Central Valley, CA

Status: Volunteer

About F3 Innovate

Farms-Food-Future Innovate (F3 Innovate) is the nation's hub for climate-smart agrifood technology and engineering.

California's Central Valley is a food-producing powerhouse with 13,650 farming enterprises generating 350 commodities annually valued at \$70B. However, the region has populations and communities which are persistently impoverished and environmentally burdened. Systemic barriers to innovation and investment prevent the region from benefiting from its human talent and globally recognized food system assets.

Headquartered in California's Central Valley, F3 Innovate drives inclusive innovation through the development, commercialization and adoption of agrifood technology solutions for the food systems value chain, resulting in 1) a diversified Central Valley economy with high-quality jobs and economic mobility for its residents; 2) net-new U.S. export capabilities; 3) sustainable local and regional food systems within the Central Valley and 4) sustainable solutions for global food production.

To accelerate regional economic opportunity and to enable global innovation in climate resilience, F3 Innovate collaborates with industry leaders, research institutions, engineers, technologists and small and large farmers. F3 Innovate drives innovation, commercialization and business acceleration by:

- serving as an innovation network and support system to help entrepreneurs scale and accelerate solutions locally to solve global challenges.
- connecting entrepreneurs to public and private sector resources, building collaborations and providing technical assistance.
- supporting climate smart technology startups and engaging entrepreneurs to enable more rapid and scalable technology commercialization.

We are a 501(c3) nonprofit, initially funded with over \$9M in federal and state funding and anchored by University of California, Merced; California State University, Fresno; University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR); Central Valley Community Foundation and the Governor's Office of Business and Economic



Development (GO-Biz). F3 Innovate collaborates with the broader F3 Initiative, comprised of three major project areas focused on workforce development (AgTEC), small business development (Local Farm and Food Innovation) and research-to-commercialization and business acceleration (F3 Innovate).

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.f3innovate.org/>.

The Opportunity

We are actively seeking five individuals to join our Board of Directors. This is a unique opportunity for motivated community and industry leaders to support the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and staff to build F3 Innovate from the ground up, as the organization works to leverage climate-smart agrifood technology and engineering to vitalize the Central Valley economy.

Position Description

Responsibilities

Board members are responsible for the sustainability, strategy and direction of F3 Innovate. They will:

- **Shape F3 Innovate's mission and strategy**, ensuring alignment with the organization's commitment to advance inclusive climate-smart agrifood technology, innovation and commercialization.
- **Adopt and oversee governance, financial management and other policies** that contribute to the effective and ethical operation of F3 Innovate. This includes approving annual budgets and ensuring financial stewardship. The board will support the CEO in administering \$7.5 million in initial funding to advance innovations, drive impact, begin to earn revenue and develop a longer-term financial sustainability model.
- **Hire, set compensation for, advise and evaluate the performance of the CEO**, to whom the Board will delegate day-to-day management responsibilities once hired. The Board will also hire and set compensation for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Technology Officer (CTO), in partnership with the CEO.
- **Monitor financial performance**, including reviewing and approving annual budgets, to ensure sound fiscal management and sustainability.



- **Set and oversee the strategic direction for F3 Innovate's programs**, including the organization's innovation and technology commercialization program.
- **Engage in fundraising and outreach efforts**, leveraging networks to identify potential donors and grants, make introductions and promote and participate in F3 Innovate's events.
- **Leverage relationships to support F3 Innovate's goal to advance innovation and commercialization.** Board members will represent F3 Innovate in the Central Valley and beyond, cultivating supportive relationships and collaborations with companies, academic partners and beyond.
- **Manage risk**, identifying and mitigating threats to F3 Innovate's success and impact.
- **Uphold all other legal obligations** of nonprofit governance and follow the organization's bylaws, policies and resolutions.
- **Promote equity and inclusion** as core to the organization's mission.
- **Recruit and mentor new board members** as the organization grows.

In F3 Innovate's nascent stage, the Board of Directors currently meets every two months. Members must be willing to actively participate in board meetings, committee meetings and organizational events. The term of office for each At-Large Director is up to three years. Service is without remuneration, although F3 Innovate anticipates covering travel and accommodation costs necessary to fulfill members' duties.

Desired Qualifications

New board members will join six already seated members representing the founding anchor institutions – the California Department of Food and Agriculture; the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development; University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR); University of California, Merced; California State University, Fresno and the Central Valley Community Foundation.

We are seeking individuals who:

- **Are aligned to [F3 Innovate's mission and values](#)**, with a demonstrated commitment to inclusive and innovative agrifood technology, sustainable food production and economic development.
- **Represent diverse sectors**, in accordance with F3 Innovate's bylaws which indicate that At-Large Directors should bring background, skills or expertise



relevant to the mission and goals of the organization, and may be drawn from stakeholders from or whose work involves the Central Valley region, including but not limited to:

- Small and medium farmers
 - Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers
 - Food-related and tech-related industries
 - Community-based organizations focused on the food system and environmental justice
 - End-user communities
- **Represent diverse regions within the Central Valley**, including Fresno, Merced, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties.
 - **Have deep knowledge of or experience working with impacted communities**, including farmworkers and young people who will become the next generation of leaders.
 - **Have demonstrated experience in strategy, governance and/or any of the areas of responsibilities** named above (e.g., expert financial management, track record of successful fundraising, workforce development).
 - **Are entrepreneurial and action-oriented**, having demonstrated a willingness to take risks and balance visioning and strategic implementation.
 - **Can build trust and relationships** across a range of communities, stakeholders and interests, with the ability to consider multiple viewpoints and galvanize groups towards a common cause. Board members should be able to work in collaboration and partnership with others, prioritizing the interests of the whole region over the unique interests of their specific institutions or communities.
 - **Have demonstrated ability to build and work toward consensus** among a diverse board, to support effective decision-making.
 - **Are committed to promoting diversity, equity and justice** within F3 Innovate's work, particularly for historically marginalized communities.

Application Process

We invite qualified candidates to apply by January 8, 2024, by submitting a Letter of Interest at the link [here](#).

Your Letter of Interest should include a description of your:

- Professional background
- Reason(s) for wanting to join the F3 Innovate Board and unique qualifications to serve
- Skills and insights you would like to contribute to F3 Innovate



- Experience working with people from a diverse array of sectors or backgrounds to reach a shared goal
- At least two professional references, including:
 - Name, relationship to you, email address and phone number

We will begin reviewing Letters of Interest on January 8, 2024, and encourage you to express your interest as soon as possible. Finalists will then be invited to discuss the opportunity with current F3 Innovate leaders. F3 Innovate will discuss potential new members at the board meeting on January 19, and we expect to extend an initial set of invitations in late January.

For questions, please contact f3innovatejobs@gmail.com.