

# Food and Fibre Sectors

## Investment Brief for 2022 funding

*We invest in this provision to develop the skills to lift productivity and future-proof the food and fibre sectors.*

Central to New Zealand's sustainable development, the food and fibre sectors:



- Make up **80%** of merchandise export earnings
- Contribute **11%** of GDP
- Employ **350,000** people, **15%** of New Zealand's total employment and 1 in 3 people in some regions
- Activities traverse **52%** of New Zealand's land mass and **4.1** million square kilometres of ocean

*(source: Ministry for Primary Industries, February 2020)*

Challenges and opportunities:

- › In 2019, only 8% of domestic tertiary students studied towards a food and fibre related qualification; learner numbers have been in decline in the past five years.
- › Good income potential and great career prospects for learners completing agriculture, environmental and related qualifications.
- › However, negative perceptions, poor information and competition have made attracting the right people difficult.



### Build strategic partnerships and co-investment

### We want partnerships with industry, Māori organisations and between TEOs for effective long-term provision

Identifying the right skills to effectively train more learners and meet sector demands requires strategic partnerships with a range of stakeholders. We encourage TEOs to work with:

- › employers and industry groups to track progress in skill needs,
- › schools and other TEOs to establish pathways, and
- › iwi and other Māori organisations to address the needs of their learners and local regions, reflecting te pae tawhiti (an intergenerational view) and kaitiakitanga (environmental stewardship).

### Establish quality provision and accessible pathways

### We want more fit for purpose qualifications / credentials and clear pathways

We are interested in innovative programmes and delivery models that facilitate graduates and mid-career people to apply their skills to food and fibre sector opportunities. We will increase investment in areas that connect people to food and fibre workplaces. We encourage upscaling successful initiatives and developing micro-credentials that address the food and fibre demand and supply gaps.

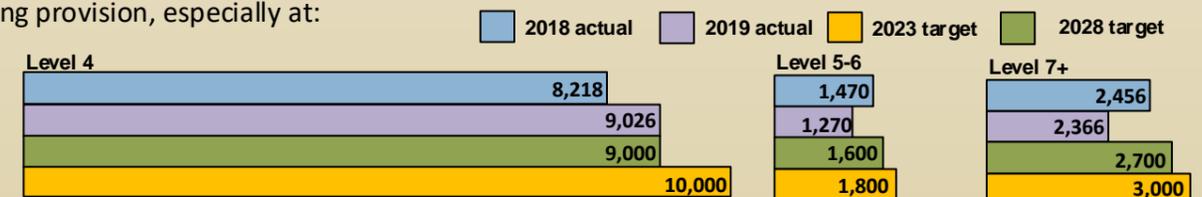
### Encourage more learners to undertake food and fibre studies

### We want to enable a healthy supply of skills to the food and fibre sectors

The food and fibre sectors play a crucial role in our economy. They dominate our exports and drive New Zealanders' living standards. However, the sectors need more of the right skills to lift productivity and tackle future technical and environmental challenges. We will invest in growing provision, especially at:

- › approved New Zealand Apprenticeships and related pathways
- › levels 5-6 provision related to management capability in the food and fibre sector
- › food and fibre sector-specific degree and post graduate provisions.

We will aim at growing the number of learners at the above levels. We have set a 10% growth rate in the next three and eight years. We will also encourage the development of micro-credentials to fill specific skill gaps.



## Inform

Information to help you understand your food and fibre related provision and careers has been published on our website as part of the investment toolkit, including:

- › Ngā Kete information products outlining provision, performance and commitments to help you explore food and fibre related provision information
- › a post study outcomes information product in Ngā Kete to explore learners' employment and income information for food and fibre related provision
- › a Food and Fibre Hub has been created at careers.govt.nz to improve the perception of the industry and attract learners to food and fibre related careers and credentials. The Hub has also refreshed food and fibre related pathways and job profiles
- › a Food and Fibre Skill Action Plan 2019-2022 available on the MPI website provides useful information on the sector
- › enhanced learner information and careers services to ensure learners can make well-informed career choices and engage with the learning pathways to those careers.

## Engage

A focus of 2022-2024 Plans will be partnership, quality provision and attraction.

We will work with TEOs that make long-term commitments to food and fibre sectors to grow key provision that encourage more learners to pursue opportunities in the food and fibre sectors:

- › We want to work with you to set challenging but realistic targets for your learners
- › We will pay close attention to what you are currently doing; what works or doesn't work; and what you will stop, maintain or start.

To achieve this we are working closely with industry bodies and the Ministry for Primary Industries to keep up to date with the skill demands in this sector

We have also developed funding processes for investing in micro-credentials.

Targets (including for Māori and Pacific achievement) set in our Student Achievement Component, Industry Training Investment Briefs and New Zealand Apprenticeships Investment Brief remain relevant.

## Invest

In 2019 the TEC invested \$96.6 million for all levels of food and fibre related provision. We want to increase investment in provision that can deliver good long-term post-study outcomes for learners and support sustainable productivity growth in the food and fibre sectors.

To grow quality provision that better suits the realities of learners' lives and future workplaces, we will target further investment in the following areas:

- › Approved New Zealand Apprenticeships and related pathways
- › Levels 5-6 provision related to management capability in the food and fibre sectors
- › Food and fibre sector-specific degree provision
- › Food and fibre sector-specific Levels 8-10 provision.

We will look for Investment Plans that reflect the investment directions in this brief, particularly those that demonstrate long-term commitments to the sector and partnerships with industry and Māori organisations.