

Sunshine Coast Future Careers+ 2025



Food and Agribusiness



Sunshine Coast Council is embarking on a strong and prosperous future which includes a progressive approach to sustainable economic growth and opportunities that are unrivalled anywhere in Australia. Council's Regional Economic Development Strategy is a blueprint for sustainable economic growth until 2033. The strategy will help to ensure the region actively participates in the global economy and delivers an enviable lifestyle and opportunities for local residents and businesses. The Strategy also seeks to ensure the region realises its full potential through support of high value industry sectors. Six sectors, Education, Knowledge and Professional Services, Tourism Sport and Leisure, Clean Technologies and Aviation and Aerospace support the Food and Agribusiness sector.

Current Industry Snapshot

The Food and Agribusiness industry on the Sunshine Coast has made strong productivity growths over the last 5 years generating approximately \$500 million to the economy and employs 5,000 local residents. High levels of reliable rainfall and large amounts of agricultural land make the Sunshine Coast an attractive region to the Food and Agribusiness industry. Some of the high value sectors within the industry are seafood which contributes 47% of primary production in the region and poultry, strawberries, pineapples and ginger contribute 39.7%. Cattle and dairy contribute 10.3% and smaller businesses make up the remaining 3%. The Sunshine Coast is home to innovative processing plants such as Gourmet Garden, COYO, Buderim Ginger, Epicurean Products and Country Chef. Mooloolaba is the biggest wild caught tuna seafood port in Australia.

Game Changers on the Sunshine Coast

The following projects are some of the major 'game-changer' developments in the Food & Agribusiness industry that will lead to job creation in 2025.

Future Careers 2025

The Agribusiness industry on the Sunshine Coast is home to many small and medium sized niche businesses. As such the majority of jobs will be those directly working on production, farming and fishing. Advances in technology will open up the way for experts in digital, robotics, drones, agricultural machinery, repair and maintenance to work in the agribusiness industry. All businesses require administrators and many small to medium agribusinesses will look for management, marketing and human resource staff, especially as they look to export internationally. Businesses will continue to seek staff that can improve logistics, transport and develop their products through food technology.

FUTURE CAREERS 2025

Production	IT Technician	Engineering / Mechanical	Business Administrators
Boat Crew	IT Technician	Mechanical Engineer	Management Staff
Factory Workers	Digital Technologies Consultant	Robotics Specialist	Marketers
Farm Hands	Digital Agriculture Researcher	UAV Specialist	Human Resources Staff
Crop Harvesters	Data Analysts	Electrical Engineer	Admin Staff
Farmers	Agriculture App Developer	Telecommunications Expert	Logistics Specialist
Transport Staff	Cloud and Social Media Expert	Repair and Maintenance Staff	Research & Development Staff

Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion

The proposed \$347 million airport expansion is a key development and will be completed by 2020. The expansion will allow for greater connections to Asia and the Western Pacific opening up new avenues for export. Products that are perishable or have short shelf life can then be exported to countries like China, India and Japan from the Sunshine Coast.

Road/Rail Improvements

By 2025 it is expected that significant improvements to the current rail network and Bruce Highway will have been completed. These improvements will allow for greater and faster freight movements between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane leading to more opportunities for export, industry development and job creation.



It currently receives 75% of the 6,000 tonnes of Australian wild caught seafood (4,500 tonnes) and is worth approximately \$100 million to the Sunshine Coast economy. There are presently more than 800 agricultural businesses operating in the Sunshine Coast and are supported by the Sunshine Coast Council and the newly formed Food & Agribusiness Network (FAN).

Projected Growth Snapshot

The Sunshine Coast is well positioned to grow and meet future demand by increasing production and exports to cater for expanding Asian marketplaces such as China and India. Existing businesses will be undergoing expansions and will be employing additional labour over the next ten years. Employment in the Agribusiness industry is set to increase

to 5,400 people by the end of 2025. The population on the Sunshine Coast is also set to increase from 289,389 to 380,649 by the end of 2025 which will increase local demand for food products. Further implementation of digital agriculture technologies such as drone technology, smartphone apps, social media and online stores will lead to the establishment of new innovative and niche businesses. Health and Wellbeing, food supply and demand, digital technology and emerging economies are merging to create opportunities.



Top 3 Careers

- 1. Production Staff** – are involved in harvesting, farming, fishing and working in factories. They provide the main source of labour to a business and are the first point of interaction with a product.
- 2. Digital, IT and Mechanical Staff** – provide businesses with expertise in the digital sector. They are specialists that can implement new technologies, analyse data sets and provide digital solutions for agribusinesses.
- 3. Management, Marketing, HR and Business Admin Staff** – run the day-to-day business operations. They are responsible for developing new products, marketing, managing new and existing staff and logistics.

Career Pathways & Education

Most young people enter farming through internships or work experience during secondary school, tertiary or vocational studies. Beginning farmers are often able to lease a plot and borrow equipment to help them get started. Networking is particularly important to young farmers in order to share information, work together, socialise and receive support. Farm incubators are a great way to start for those who don't have large amounts of funding. The following tables show different subjects and courses to gain entry into the Agribusiness industry on the Sunshine Coast.

Subjects to look for at High School

Agricultural Practices	Agricultural Science	Aquatic Practices	Biology
Earth Science	Physics	Mathematics A, B, C	English
Business Management	Accounting	Tourism	Chemistry
Engineering Technology	Information & Communication	Hospitality Studies	

Tertiary / University Education Pathway at the University of the Sunshine Coast (Courses)

Advanced Genetics	Agricultural and Forest Ecology	Agricultural Machinery
Aquaculture	Economic Development	Complementary Food and Nutrition
Environmental Health Risk Management	Food In Society	Food Marketing
Food Safety: Laws, Regulations	Food Service Systems	Food Studies
Nutrition and Dietetic Practice	Nutritional Biochemistry	Pharmaceutical and Food Microbiology
Principles of Nutrition		

TAFE Education Pathway

Agriculture Chemical Distribution Certificate (AC/DC)	Certificate II in Horticulture	Certificate II in Horticulture Chainsaw Operations Level 1
Certificate II in Horticulture Chainsaw Operations Level 2	Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management	Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Maintenance – Diesel Fitting)
Certificate III in Horticulture	Diploma of Sustainability (Dual Diploma)	Certificate II in Hospitality
Certificate II in Kitchen Operations	Certificate III in Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration	Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
Certificate III in Hospitality	Certificate III in Nutrition and Dietetic Assistance	Certificate III in Patisserie
Certificate III in Retail Operations	Certificate III in Retail Supervision	Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery
Diploma of Hospitality / Diploma of Business	Food Safety Supervision	Responsible Service of Alcohol

Online Courses + Career Colleges + Work Based Learning

Master of Sustainable Agriculture (Online – Charles Sturt University)	Advanced Diploma of Agriculture (Online – Upskilled)	Certificate IV in Agriculture (Online – Upskilled)
Advanced Diploma of Agribusiness Management (Online – Upskilled)	ACDC – Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control	Strawberry Fields Schools Program

Crossover Industries

The Agribusiness industry can be influenced by experts from many other fields of work that will help producers be more efficient, increase profits, improve sustainability and obtain greater harvests. For example, Aviation and Agribusiness crosses over using drone technology with companies like Aero Bugs that distribute predator bugs which save strawberry crops from being eaten by other insects and results in high crop yields. Information Technology can cross over into Agribusiness by specialising in the application of digital innovations to an agricultural setting. Tourism in Food and Agribusiness is growing as consumers seek to experience firsthand the process of how their food is made. Educational providers can train students in the Agricultural sector and specialists in Clean Technology can improve existing farming methods to help them become more sustainable and protect the natural environment. Agribusiness is also complemented by health professionals that specialise in the welfare of farm animals and related medical procedures.

Further Information

Study Sunshine Coast promotes the area as the ultimate destination for education and provides students with everything they need to know about studying on the Sunshine Coast. From educational facilities, to the best places to find delicious food and drink (and save your dollars). Study Sunshine Coast is your go-to student guide, 24/7!

For more information go to:

www.studysunshinecoast.com.au