

AI research in farming gets lift with funding

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The ARC Research Hub will combine machine vision, machine learning, software quality control, engineering, biology, and farming industries to develop technologies to build more intelligent systems.



Griffith University's leadership in incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into farming production to automate tasks such as strawberry quality control and larvae counting has been recognised with \$5 million in funding from the Australian Government.

Led by Professor Yongsheng Gao, from Griffith's School of Engineering and Built Environment and the Institute for Integrated Intelligence Systems, the Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Research Hub (ARC ITRH) for Driving Farming Productivity and Disease Prevention aims to increase farm production and disease prevention through advancing and transferring new artificial intelligence technologies into industrial deployment.

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The team at Griffith has demonstrated AI-based quality control of strawberries on the farm in a day-to-day production environment.

Professor Gao said the funding would allow the Research Hub to elevate its current work in discovery and fundamental research into another level of performance.

"Now it's come to the stage where it needs to perform on a larger scale to transform the industry into a highly efficient production," Professor Gao said.

"In this hub, we can do many things at a high level in the various sectors of the aquaculture and agriculture industries."

With its researchers located across five Australian universities, the CSIRO and in five additional industry partner organisations, the Research Hub is expected to contribute to higher farming efficiency, lower production costs and fewer

disease risks, giving the Australian industry new business opportunities and an international competitive advantage.