

# Food Innovation Centers in the Northeast

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## Cornell University

The [Cornell Food Venture Center](#) provides assistance to ensure safety and stability of food products entering the marketplace. This includes comprehensive assistance to beginning and established food entrepreneurs thus promoting sustainable economic development. The Center offers services, outreach and research development opportunities in four critical areas: business and product process development, product safety, process/product technology transfer and product commercialization.

## Rutgers University

The [Food Innovation Center](#) is a unique food business incubator and accelerator that supports established early stage entrepreneurs and existing food companies from concept to commercialization. The Center provides business, marketing, food safety, product design and scale up expertise within FDA and USDA certified facilities to help companies successfully build and grow their business.

## University of Maine

[Dr. Matthew Highlands Pilot Plant](#): the plant offers services to enhance product lines, create value-added foods or scale up recipes for commercial production. The state-of-the-art research facility is equipped with a variety of food processing equipment, including a pasta maker, meat chopper, dehydrator, blast freezer, steam cooker, cheese making equipment and packaging equipment. In addition, the facility contains a state-licensed commercial kitchen that serves as a teaching laboratory for food-science and human-nutrition students, and as a place where home businesses can package and produce food products.

## University of Rhode Island

The University of Rhode Island in partnership with RI Agricultural Technologies (a partnership made up of Rhode Island Mushroom Company and American Ag Energy Inc.) will create the Rhode Island Agricultural Innovation & Entrepreneurship Campus in West Kingston. This project is anticipated to be situated on 50+ acres adjacent to the URI Kingston Campus and also include over 25 acres of greenhouses adjacent to a 15,000+ square foot Agriculture Innovation Center which will be the epicenter for agricultural innovation, entrepreneurship, internships, and education. This project will secure Rhode Island's position as the agricultural technology hub of the northeast. In addition to producing over ten percent of Rhode Island's total vegetable needs, the project will contain advanced facilities for key committed partners Verinomics, a world-renowned genomics and computational biology company, and VoloAgri a vegetable seed company specialized in breeding for Open Field and Protected Crops. The Agriculture Innovation Center will be programmed and managed by the University of Rhode Island and will educate and train students for the cutting-edge agricultural products, processes and jobs of the future. The total project cost of the Rhode Island Agricultural Innovation &

Entrepreneurship Campus is expected to be approximately \$115 million with the innovation bond proceeds accounting for \$4 million.