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Gap Analysis of Funding for Indigenous Agriculture and Food

prepared for the

B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food,

and the

B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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PURPOSE

The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as guided by the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food (IACAF) contracted Osier Consulting to complete a gap analysis for funding programs supporting Indigenous agriculture and food projects. The purpose of this project is to inform and improve the integration of Indigenous food and agriculture interests and opportunities in future Ministry of Agriculture and Food program and policy design. The project was intended to contribute to one of the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food's Strategic Plan Year 1 actions to: Commission a gap analysis for Indigenous agriculture across B.C. to identify policy, legislation and program gaps, address barriers and create opportunities for Indigenous peoples in the agriculture and food sector.

For the purposes of this project, agriculture and food projects were scoped to include commercial, social enterprise, and food security programs, involving land-based agriculture, aquaculture, or wild harvesting.

METHODOLOGY

The project team was guided by a Steering Committee including Ministry staff and members of the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food. The project team gathered information from four main sources:

- a limited literature review on Indigenous agricultural funding within Canada;
- a jurisdictional review of Indigenous funding programs in British Columbia, Ontario, Northwest Territories, New Zealand and the United States;
- a review of B.C. and Canadian government funding available to Indigenous agriculture; and,
- interviews with Indigenous agriculture initiatives in B.C. reflecting a range of commodities and regions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A limited literature review was conducted to learn from previous studies on Indigenous agriculture funding within Canada. Key findings are summarised in the following section, with a reference list of documents reviewed listed in Appendix B.

Indigenous peoples have been practicing agriculture since long before Canada's confederation.

Indigenous peoples have always had a relationship with the land, including agricultural, cultivation and harvesting practices long before colonialism in Canada.[i] Colonial governments limited Indigenous peoples' abilities to continue these practices by removing land and displacing First Nations communities[ii], disallowing agricultural and hunting practices and food systems such as bartering, and breaking families

and communities by taking Indigenous children from their homes into residential schools where, among many other abuses designed to "kill the Indian in the child" they were forbidden to practice their culture and forced into manual labour - often in agricultural work.[iii] Even when colonial governments forced Indigenous peoples to settle on reserves and learn farming, government's policies and practices undermined reserve agriculture.[iv] More recently, Indigenous traditional food systems and agriculture are being further threatened by climate change, ongoing colonial policies, mining, forestry, and destructive agricultural practices.[v]

Despite externally imposed limitations, Indigenous participation in agriculture is increasing.

Despite these limitations, Indigenous participation in agriculture and food-related industries like aquaculture and food processing has increased.[vi] Within British Columbia, 4% of individuals employed in the agriculture sector in 2016 identified as Indigenous.[vii] The proportions of farm operators is lower, with 3% identified as Indigenous. Of note, across Canada and in British Columbia, over two-thirds of farm operators identifying as Indigenous self-report as Métis.[viii]

Indigenous identity is a complex and contentious question.

As there are concerns about the self-identification of Indigeneity, given a documented rise in settler self-indigenization – using long-ago ancestors to shift away from a white identity and reimagine themselves (most commonly as Métis), the larger proportion of farm operators identifying as Métis raised concerns with the project team. Darryl Leroux and Adam Gaudry note that this practice disregards the Métis peoplehood in the prairies, with "new Métis" finding legitimacy because settlers are confused by Indigeneity based on kinship and belonging.[ix] This self-Indigenization as Métis is easier than as a particular First Nation due to a broad misunderstanding of who is Métis as simply a person with mixed European and First Nations ancestry, instead of someone whose ancestry originates in the Red River Valley and the surrounding prairies, where Métis culture was formed. While there is no definition such as the blood quantum measure problematically used for First Nations status, it is most determined by Métis organizations as someone who: "self-identifies as a Métis, is distinct from other aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation."[x] As an example of the scope of the difference, the Métis Nation of BC (MNBC) reports that there are currently 90,000 self-identified Métis in BC, with more than 20,000 registered MNBC citizens.

In reviewing the literature on increased Indigenous participation in agriculture, primarily through growth in Métis producers, our team worried that as more white settlers seem comfortable falsely self-identifying themselves as Métis than First Nations, that these numbers might reflect a number of farm operators who have chosen to identify as Métis in order to access loans or grants which might be differently available to them, without having experienced any of the legacy and ongoing harms colonization and systemic racism causes to Indigenous peoples living in Canada. There are particularly well documented incidences of this in eastern Canada, where organizations have formed to represent Eastern Métis people, though no court recognizes communities claiming to be Métis east of Ontario.[xi] The definition of who is Métis is contentious within the Métis National Council with the Manitoba Métis Federation withdrawing from the

Métis National Council in September 2021 due to the practice of accepting people through the Métis Nation of Ontario that the Manitoba Métis Federation did not see as meeting the criteria of being Métis.

In addition to increased access to grants, jobs, and loans for people who falsely identify as Métis, there remains the possibility that the Métis will at some point be granted a broader set of rights, perhaps similar in some way to those extended to people with First Nations status. As with First Nations people, historic efforts to encourage Métis people to give up their rights and identity as Métis people have had the intended effect of reducing the number of people who are connected to Métis communities. For example, Métis people have had greater difficulty in accessing land promised to them due to the Métis scrip system which enabled land speculators purchase land rights from Métis people. While this was primarily a prairie province issue, it has been reported to have affected Métis who had settled in northeastern BC. In May 2021, the First Nations Leadership Council rejected the Métis Nation of British Columbia's claim of Aboriginal Rights throughout BC, noting that "all of the land in what is now known as BC is comprised of unceded and traditional territories of First Nations."[xii]

While these issues are slightly clearer for First Nations people, there remain differences between those who have been granted Indian status under the Indian Act, and those who are recognized by their Nations as members. Again, the historical policies of enfranchisement which through different means encouraged people to voluntarily relinquish their Indian status, a cornerstone of Canadian Indigenous policy for almost 100 years,[xiii] followed by deliberate efforts through residential schools and the sixties scoop to separate First Nations people from their community and culture led to an unknown but large number of people who legitimately self-identify as Indigenous but may not know or have any connection to their nation, and whose families may have hidden or denied their Indigenous identity as a protective factor. Note there are further complexities, even less well broadly understood, defining who is Inuit, and among those, who has access to land claims.

The definition of Indigenous matters in the administration and evaluation of programs designed for Indigenous people which use a test of self-identification, as there are increasingly incentives for non-Indigenous people (most often white settlers) to claim Indigenous status in order to access competitive resources.[xiv] Public institutions who offer resources such as grants, loans, seats in programs, or employment to people who self-identify as Indigenous must ask themselves why the resource is targeted to Indigenous people, and work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit organizations to agree to an appropriate and distinctions based test of this identity.

For example, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan issued a statement in October 2021 in response to further public instances of false claims to Indigenous ancestry, asking that academic institutions, industry and governments learn what Métis citizenship requires, respect this process, and comply with their vetting process in selecting applicants. This requires more work on behalf of the administrators of these competitive resources, and sometimes difficult conversations, but is more in keeping with the rights of self-determination outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Many First Nations see agriculture as a promising opportunity.

In 2017, as a first step towards fostering a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada held two outreach sessions with First Nations. Participants in these sessions noted unique and promising agricultural opportunities for First Nations, including:

- *niche markets for Indigenous plants, products and knowledge;*
- *the untapped potential of land resources currently being leased to non-First Nation farmers;*
- *a growing land base as a result of treaties; and*
- *a large young population interested in seizing economic development opportunities.*[xv]

Increasing interest in agricultural production is linked to advancing food security and food sovereignty for the community.

For many Indigenous people and communities interested in supporting growth in Indigenous agriculture, the most important factor is to support Indigenous food security and food sovereignty.[xvi] The prevalence of food insecurity is very high in First Nations communities, with a recent study finding the highest rates of food insecurity amongst First Nations in Canada to be in nations within B.C. (50%).[xvii] This does not exclude commercial agriculture, but instead focuses production on meeting Indigenous markets for food, rather than for export outside of community.

Multiple studies of challenges faced by Indigenous people and communities to increase and expand agricultural operations have documented similar issues.

ACCESS TO LAND AND WATER

Treaties across Canada included land removal on a massive scale, typically resulting in reserves with a guideline of 80 acres of land for every family of five persons, still removing the majority of land for the Crown or private ownership. Within British Columbia, the 1875 BC Land Act used a formula of 20 acres of reserve land per family, while allowing 160-acre land grants for individual settlers.[xviii] Reserves now cover only 0.4% of the BC land base,[xix] and often located away from the best lands in terms of agriculture.[xx]

Small First Nations reserves, with portions which may not be usable for agriculture due to size, soil conditions, and water quality and supply, or not accessible by road, limits Indigenous agricultural development in British Columbia. Further, arable reserve land may be locked into long-term leases to non-Indigenous farmers, and the Indian Act has cumbersome processes for land use planning and leasing which restricts First Nations' ability to make use of the land. [xxi]

ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Obtaining financing: Indigenous people living on reserve have difficulty securing financing to start or expand businesses, as reserve land cannot be used as collateral for loans. While there is some funding for

planning Indigenous business opportunities, there are few grants which provide substantial start up funding, and they often require a matched contribution from the individual or community which may not be unavailable. Members of Indigenous communities often have to obtain their band council's approval to seek funding.[xxii] Aboriginal capital corporations have assisted with access to funding, however, Indigenous entrepreneurs may still struggle to obtain financing due to low financial literacy rates, a lack of credit history, lower home ownership rates and average net home values than the general population.[xxiii]

Communicating financing opportunities: Where financing options exist, it can be difficult for Indigenous communities and individuals to find information about the different funds which are available. There is no centralized location listing all Indigenous business and agricultural funding available, and applicants typically must find, secure and coordinate funding from multiple sources to cover costs for an agricultural project.[xxiv]

Capacity to apply for and manage funding: Onerous application requirements were reported as discouraging potential First Nation applicants from applying.[xxv] Funds also rarely cover true administration costs to support retention of essential staff to manage and sustain projects.[xxvi]

Funding eligible expenses: Studies note that among existing funds, there are insufficient programs targeted to the specific needs of First Nations which address their unique challenges to move to commercial production, such as extension and mentorship services including assistance with feasibility studies, geographical information system mapping, recommendations for land use and initial start-up costs.[xxvii] This funding is typically limited to one fiscal year, and funding is more difficult to find for equipment and large scale infrastructure such as warehousing and processing facilities.[xxviii]

Relationship building: First Nations participants in these studies identified a need not only for better information sharing about funding opportunities, but opportunities to build community based relationships between First Nations and funders to promote agricultural funding and programming, as well as better coordination between federal and provincial/territorial governments on Indigenous agriculture. [xxix] These relationships need to bridge beyond funding into supporting ongoing project development. One study noted that "the lack of policy and program continuity on the part of the federal government has created cynicism with First Nations, including in the agricultural sphere."[xxx]

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Extension supports: Indigenous agriculture enterprises need agricultural extension supports and training to enhance their operations, as well as support with initiative administration, marketing, food processing requirements. [xxxi]

Youth engagement and training: Indigenous peoples are the fastest growing population in Canada and have a higher share of children and youth than the non-Indigenous population, with children and youth under 24 years making up 44% of the Indigenous population, compared with 28% of the non-Indigenous

population. Indigenous youth will form an important part of future leaders, entrepreneurs, and employees living in Canada. Studies noted a need to introduce Indigenous youth to the wide array of jobs across the agricultural sector (e.g. farmers, food processors, agronomists, entrepreneurs) as well as providing training and education in culturally relevant agriculture and food processing. Training from outside of the community can be difficult to provide given the distance required to travel, as well as lack of reliable internet access. Studies note that one of the key attractants to agriculture programs for youth is the opportunity for land-based learning and connection; however, there are also some emerging programs making the link between STEM occupations and the agriculture sector.

Indigenous agriculture sector supporting organizations: Indigenous organizations supporting the Indigenous agricultural sector also need capacity development to be better able to meet the needs of individual and community Indigenous agriculture initiatives. The First Nations Agriculture Association of BC, the oldest Indigenous agricultural and agri-food organization of its kind in Canada has developed a comprehensive strategy to restart its full services over five years, which will require a substantial investment of resources. The organization's proposed service model will focus on Awareness, Development and Marketing, supported by Leadership and Advocacy. While the investment required is substantial, Indigenous producers in the project reported limited engagement with other agriculture industry associations, underlining the importance of an Indigenous led agriculture organization.

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Despite its importance to Indigenous communities, agriculture is a difficult and demanding industry. Work in the field is often low paying, and there can be labour shortages at harvest time. Indigenous agricultural enterprises may struggle to compete with mainstream competitors, most of whom began their enterprises with greater advantages.[xxxii] The sector must be viewed by Indigenous communities as viable and a part of a thriving economy that contributes to food security and culture building to generate interest and engage target groups. Engagement with Indigenous communities about agriculture needs to demonstrate investment in the sector as viable and a part of a thriving economy that contributes to food security and culture building.

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEW

The project team looked for examples of funding for Indigenous initiatives, both agricultural and otherwise, which addressed some of the issues identified within the literature review. Five programs were identified, including programs in British Columbia, Ontario, the Northwest Territories, New Zealand, and the United States.

British Columbia - Indigenous Labour Market Community Navigator Initiative

From 2015 to 2018, the Government of Canada funded the Indigenous Labour Market Community Navigator Initiative through the New Relationship Trust. This initiative supported the hiring of seven

Navigators and one coordinator to serve 37 First Nations in the areas of Burns Lake, Treaty 8, Coastal First Nations, Carrier Sekani and the Lower Mainland. The navigators liaised with First Nations communities, training organizations and industry to link skills training directly with emerging job opportunities. Their work often entailed helping First Nations learn about and respond to funding opportunities, rooted in each Navigator's understanding and relationship with the First Nations they served. The initiative was funded as part of a Strategic Partnerships Initiative which aimed to increase Indigenous participation in economic opportunities in Liquified Natural Gas (LNG). Funding was discontinued in 2018.

Notable approach: *This initiative was structured to provide regional and relationship based support to First Nations to boost their capacity to explore sectoral funding opportunities.*

British Columbia – First Nations Technology Council

The First Nations Technology Council is an Indigenous-led non-profit organization, mandated by Indigenous peoples in British Columbia to advance digital and connected technologies. When the First Nations Technology Council was established in 2002, their founding mandates were given by the First Nations Leadership Council, which consists of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs. The organization serves all 204 First Nations communities across British Columbia, and makes an explicit effort to represent the diverse nations and cultural groups in Board and staff roles such as regional coordinators. However, individual eligibility for programs is determined through self-identification as from Indigenous, Frist Nations, Métis or Inuit ancestry. The First Nations Technology Council accesses a range of government funding to fulfil this mandate.

Notable approach: *The organization was given a mandate by and is accountable to the First Nations Leadership Council, while using a mix of government funding to deliver on their mandate.*

Canada – Indigenous Growth Fund

The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) is a network of over 50 Aboriginal Financial Institutions that supply developmental lending directly to Aboriginal entrepreneurs and communities. The Indigenous Growth Fund (IGF) is an Indigenous social impact fund which provides improved access to capital for Aboriginal Financial Institutions and Indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises. Initial investors included the Business Development Bank of Canada, the Government of Canada, Export Development Canada and Farm Credit Canada, who collectively provided $150 million. The IGF's first investment of $10 million went to the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation on Vancouver Island, which provided loans to Indigenous small and medium sized businesses, including several food businesses. Bigfoot Donuts in Courtenay were able to borrow money to purchase a new space without having personal collateral such as a home. The Huu-ay-aht First Nations Group of Businesses, the business arm of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, was able to access a large line of credit to help finetune and scale up their production process for their newest venture, oyster seeding. Aboriginal Financial Institutions are able to use their unique knowledge of and connection to the region and the individual entrepreneurs to assess a project's risk and deploy capital appropriately.

Notable approach: *The fund, managed and delivered by Indigenous led organizations, offers institutional and social impact investors a direct vehicle to contribute to economic reconciliation.*

Ontario - Indian Agricultural Program of Ontario

Established in 1984, the Indian Agriculture Program of Ontario (IAPO) is an Aboriginal Capital Corporation which endeavours to empower First Nation communities through financial support and training for farmers. The organization is able to provide financing and loans directly and to facilitate funding from other groups such as the Aboriginal Business Financing Program, Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, Canadian Agricultural Partnership, and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario. IAPO provides business support and guidance, as well as farm advisory services. Finally, the IAPO supports youth entry into agriculture by funding 4-H for First Nations clubs.

Notable approach: *The First Nations led non-profit is able to provide both financing and funding coordination. IAPO offers fee for service business supports for farmers, as well as farm advisory services. Programs also include youth agricultural training supports.*

Saskatchewan – Agriculture in the Classroom Canada and Protein Industries Canada

In 2021, Protein Industries Canada (an innovation supercluster for the plant protein sector), Enterprise Machine Intelligence & Learning Initiative (a Manitoba organization focusing on digital agriculture), Actua (a national STEM outreach charity) and Agriculture in the Classroom Canada (a Canadian charity delivering agriculture education in the K-12 system) invested in a partnership with the project is intended to help address the agriculture industry's growing need for a skilled workforce. The program will engage youth in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, with focus on Indigenous and other under-represented groups. Building on Actua's existing STEM and digital skills programming, the program incorporates Indigenous perspectives and land-based learning.

Notable approach: *The industry and non-profit collaborative focuses on engaging Indigenous youth in the agri-tech sector, working to show youth the diverse range of occupations available.*

Northwest Territories - Northern Farm Training Institute

In 2013, Jackie Milne, a local Métis and northern farming expert created the Northern Farm Training Institute (NFTI), a non-profit society which provides immersive farm training to people committed to improving local food systems. The NFTI operates on a 260-acre campus in Hay River, Northwest Territories, where they research and teach sustainable and regenerative agriculture production systems tailored to Northern small scaled, highly productive farming. The organization has been funded by the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency as well as the Canadian Agriculture Partnership.

Notable approach: *The Indigenous led non-profit focuses on hands-on, regionally specific training in agricultural production, and has been funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program.*

New Zealand - Māori agribusiness funding and support

The Ministry for Primary Industries' Māori agribusiness team supports helping Māori landowners and agribusinesses through building skills and knowledge; highlighting opportunities to make land more productive; access funding; creating jobs; and improving land management practices. There are two programs:

- the Māori Agribusiness Pathway to Increased Productivity (MAPIP) program provides one-on-one support to Māori landowners and trustees; and,

- the Māori Agribusiness Extension (MABx) program supports interested Māori landowners and agribusinesses to work together in clusters towards common goals. This program includes funding for exploration clusters to enable participants to explore working together, as well as project clusters to enable participants to implement collective goals.

Notable approach: *The Māori agribusiness programs were designed with Māori input. The MABx reflects Māori land ownership and supports landowners to work together to share access to larger parcels.*

United States – 2018 Farm Bill

Every five years, the United States enacts a series of farm bills. Prior to the 2018 Farm Bill, tribes and tribal organizations had minimal input in farm discussions. More than 170 tribes joined the Native Farm Bill Coalition, resulting in a Farm Bill that included 60 provisions specifically supporting Native American tribes, farmers, ranchers and producers. Some examples of these provisions include:

- making tribal producers eligible to participate in the Local Agriculture Market Program to help tribes, grow, process and market Native foods;
- creating a new Tribal Advisory Committee to provide advice to USDA on tribal related issues;
- adding tribes as specifically eligible under the livestock disaster programs;
- requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into alternative funding agreements with tribes in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program;
- increasing opportunities for tribal producers to participate in U.S. trade delegations; and,
- creating a micro grant for food security program that tribes can apply to for small-scale gardening, herding and livestock operations directed to food insecure communities.

Notable approach: *The 2018 Farm bill creates new opportunities for tribes and tribal producers across a range of nutrition programs and assistance for food production, natural resource conservation, forestry, rural infrastructure and economic development efforts. The Native Farm Bill Coalition ensured a strong united voice for tribes into the 2018 bill, and has continued to work towards the 2023 bill.*

B.C. FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS AGRICULTURE

A total of 36 agriculture and food industry support programs funded completely or in part by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food were examined. There is only one program specifically targeted at Indigenous communities or entrepreneurs, the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program (IADP), although Indigenous communities or producers were eligible for most programs if they met other eligibility requirements.

Of those programs included in the analysis:

Funding

- Almost 60% (21) were funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- 30% (11) were funded by AFF alone
- 11% (4) were funded from multiple sources

Delivery

- 53% (19) Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- 12% (8) Investment Agriculture Foundation

- 8% (3) PricewaterhouseCoopers
- 6% (2) Food Processing Skills Canada
- 3% (1) Young Agrarians
- 3% (1) Small Scale Food Processors Association
- 3% (1) Agriculture and Agrifood Canada

Costs

- 56% (20) cost-shared
- 31% (11) no cost to participant
- 8% (3) premium-based insurance programs
- 3% (1) investment program with matching subsidy
- 1% (1) registration fee required

Payment

- 61% (22) Reimbursement-based
- 19% (7) funding paid directly to service provider
- 5% (2) involve both service-provider payment and reimbursement
- 11% (4) through insurance payments
- 3% (1) is an investment matching program where matching funds and interest are taxable income

Eligible Activities

Most programs reviewed were targeted at supporting specific activities related to commercial agricultural production or food processing, including:

- Research, agricultural planning, and information sharing;
- Knowledge transfer and skills development;
- Business skills development and planning;
- Market development and marketing activities;
- Reduction of environmental impact from agricultural activities;
- Food safety planning and practice implementation;
- Traceability knowledge development, and costs related to adoption and implementation (including specific equipment or software costs);
- Innovation in agriculture, including research and development, piloting and demonstration, and commercialization and adoption activities for innovative products, practices, or technologies
- Traceability knowledge development, and costs related to adoption and implementation (including specific equipment or software costs);
- Risk Management through producer insurance and recovery programs (including costs related to repair of uninsurable farm structures and equipment and replanting of perennial crops); and,
- Funding and development of equipment or facilities for a specific purpose (e.g. traceability or livestock waste tissue disposal.

There was one provincially-funded pilot (Small Farm Business Acceleration Pilot Program) that supported the purchase of production equipment or expansion of physical structures aimed at increased income from increased commercial agricultural production.

Application assistance

Most materials for programs reviewed did not offer application assistance, although materials for programs delivered by AFF staff always offer contact information to answer questions. 19% (7) of programs, including the IADP, offered low-barrier application processes facilitated through a service provider. In materials for two programs, the Small Farm Business Acceleration Pilot Project and EMBC Wildfire 2021 Emergency Feed Program, Indigenous applicants were specifically encouraged to contact program staff for eligibility assessment or receiving more information about the program.

See Appendix C for a list of funding programs available to Indigenous farmers in B.C.

FEDERAL AGRICULTURE FUNDING

Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provides an investment through a 5-year, multi-lateral agreement to support region-specific agriculture programs and services that are tailored to meet regional needs, and delivered by provinces and territories. These programs are cost shared between the federal and provincial/territorial governments with the federal government contributing 60% of the costs of the program and the provincial/territorial government contributing 40%.

The priorities and focus areas for the upcoming multi-lateral funding agreement have already been agreed to. They are very similar to the priorities in the current CAP agreement, and include the following:

- Building Sector Capacity, Growth, & Competitiveness
- Climate Change & Environment
- Market Development & Trade
- Resiliency & Public Trust
- Science, Research & Innovation

In addition to the multi-lateral agreement, each jurisdiction has a Schedule 1 bilateral agreement that identifies Designated Programs, funding amounts, and eligible expenses, recipients, and performance indicators for each program. These Designated Programs function as umbrella programs, and each province/territory has the flexibility to create multiple funding opportunities under these programs. For example, the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program falls under the *Markets and Trade* multi-lateral priority area, and under the BC Designated Program *Business Development*.

The current agreements under CAP expire at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal year, and negotiations around the development of the subsequent agreement have already begun.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) also administers some agriculture programs directly, rather than flowing the funds through cost-shared programs with provinces and territories. These programs can be a federal initiative through CAP funding, or through other means. One example of an AAFC CAP initiative is the Indigenous Pathfinder Service. This service is meant to provide advice and referral to help navigate relevant information, tools, and support available to start or expand activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. Initially intended to provide support including connections to provincial and territorial opportunities, the Pathfinder service is currently limited to AAFC funding programs and services, AAFC

experts, and other federal support available. This limitation significantly limits the usefulness of the service.

The Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative is another AAFC program supporting Indigenous agriculture and food, funded through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative. This program is designed to support Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs to launch agriculture and food systems projects with multi-year funding. Due to high demand, the application intake period for the Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative has been suspended. As noted above, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have been engaging with leaders and organizations Indigenous agriculture to explore how to better support capacity development within Indigenous agriculture.

INTERVIEWS

This project was completed within a short timeframe and with scope to contain only a limited engagement with Indigenous communities and businesses active in the agriculture and food industry. The project team was able to complete a total of 23 interviews reflecting a range of the following factors:

- Business or initiative ownership
- Initiative focus (Commercial, Social Enterprise, or Community)
- Agricultural region
- Commodities or activity type

Representation of participants across these factors is outlined in the following tables. A full list of interviews conducted can be found in Appendix B.

Agricultural Region	# of Interviews
Cariboo Chilcotin Coast	5
Kootenay	1
Okanagan	1
Omenica Skeena	3
Peace	1
South Coast	3
Thompson Nicola	5
Vancouver Island/Coast	3
Cross-regional	1

Commodity or Activity Type	# of Interviews
Agri-tourism	3
Cannabis	1
Cattle	2
Equestrian	1
Fish	1
Forage	1
Goats, Rabbits, or mixed livestock	1
Horticulture	11
Nursery Plants	1
Food Processing	1
Agricultural Skills Development or Youth Participation	5
Community Gardens, Food Support or Healthy Living	9
Traditional Food Systems	3

Initiative Ownership	# of Interviews
First Nations	13
Private	5
First-Nations Led Non-profit or Community Group	4
Government (Parks Canada)	1

Initiative Focus[1]	# of Interviews
Commercial	4
Social Enterprise	10
Community	9

Many of the interview participants represented multi-faceted agricultural or food initiatives that produce multiple agricultural commodities and work to meet a variety of business and community needs, including commercial sales, access to employment, community economic development, community food support, and cultural or language activities. Improving food sovereignty or security and increased economic development for their community was a stated goal for almost all participants in this project, which echoed the findings of the 2021 Indigenous Agriculture Inventory, where the 73 participating nations all reported having past or community food projects.[xxxiii]

The following themes around gaps and barriers to accessing funding for Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives were developed through the interviews this project completed with Indigenous food and

[1] For the purposes of this project, Social Enterprise includes projects with a purpose including profit and a social purpose to explicitly provide training, employment or food for Indigenous people, or income for Indigenous organizations or First Nations. Community projects have no profit focus, though small amounts of revenue may be generated, but instead focus on training, employment or food production for Indigenous people or communities.

agriculture initiatives in all regions of B.C., and directly reflect the input of interview participants. It's important to note that all of these themes have been previously identified in other consultations with First Nations around gaps in available funding or support and the needs of Indigenous communities and food producers. Four case studies of interview participants were also prepared and are included as Appendix A on page 22 of this report.

Communication of funding opportunities

There is no easy way to learn about the key potential funding opportunities, which are listed separately at the many different organisations and governments which offer them.

If opportunities are distributed to Indigenous communities, they may go to a general inbox and not to the individuals who are interested and able in taking action. There are many demands on First Nation government administrations that increase the potential for this outcome.

There may sometimes be a delay between a change in funding opportunities and updates of a funder website, or the fund site may continue to be active after the funding opportunity has passed. This can cause businesses and communities to complete unnecessary work in preparing an application to a fund that may not reopen. This experience can increase reluctance to seek funding in the future.

Funding, Application, and Project Completion timelines

Funding opportunities are sometimes put forth with limited application timelines.

Combined with current methods of communicating opportunities and applicant capacity for monitoring, application development, and response, this can prevent application by eligible projects and limit success of funding program objectives. It also acts to increase inequity between organisations with varying levels of capacity.

Funding cycles are organised around and limited by the fiscal year.

Agricultural production and the potential for initiative success is often tied to a seasonal cycle that may be difficult to coordinate with funding opportunities organised around the fiscal year of jurisdictional or national governments. Current funding cycles may also fall completely outside of high-need seasons or times likely to bring unexpected needs for agricultural producers. Lack of available support, especially in the development of a project or to meet emergency needs, can lead to overall project failure.

Lack of opportunity for multi-year, ongoing project support, often necessary for a successful outcome.

Development of a successful agriculture or food initiative often requires a multi-year timeline with support for successive production seasons to reach sustainability. Those we spoke to often talked about the lack of opportunity for developing this kind of project support from funders.

In addition to this, the lack of current opportunity for dialogue on project needs, limited expenditure flexibility to meet project outcomes that shift due to external conditions, and funder inability to commit

to overall project success can reduce the potential for initiatives to successfully reach sustainability. Every Indigenous food and agriculture initiative that does not succeed can create additional barriers to future projects in the same community.

Some Indigenous organisations or businesses may have limited capacity for seeking and successfully obtaining funding support for food and agriculture production.

Organisations being funded, including First Nations and Indigenous serving organizations, may be under-resourced and are often under significant demand to meet a wide variety of community and regulatory needs. This can severely limit their opportunity for successfully obtaining funding and developing food and agriculture initiatives successfully.

Initiatives by First Nations, Economic Development Corporations, and private producers that we spoke to were all more successful if they involved people who had previous training or experience in navigating administrative processes such as funding applications. This acts to decrease equity between nations and businesses by supporting access to funding by those who have already been successful. Factors such as population and geographic location of communities can play a role in exacerbating this issue.

First Nations with limited capacity may rely on outside consultants for seeking and applying for available funding. This is expensive, and it may be difficult for a consultant from outside of the community to understand and articulate community needs appropriately.

Relationship Building and Communications

There are no structures in place to encourage or allow the development of relationships between funders and those seeking funding.

A major concern of those interviewed, particularly those from First Nations communities or Economic Development Corporations, was that there is no opportunity to build and maintain ongoing relationships with funders. This can have several consequences:

- It can be difficult to engage in discussions around the potential for funding specific agriculture and food initiatives without following the identified application process. This leads to increased costs, lost time, and reduced opportunity for applicants to pursue potential projects in the future.
- Obtaining support from funder representatives with no previous or ongoing community relationships often requires applicants to repeatedly explain the unique situation in their community. This leads to increased administrative costs, higher probability of miscommunication between parties, and contributes to reluctance on the part of potential applicants to seek funding.

Relationships and relationship building are a very important part of many Indigenous cultures and systems. Ongoing relationships with funders may be less important to non-Indigenous applicants to Ministry funding programs. By recognizing this aspect of Indigenous cultures, and intentionally working toward developing a structure which would allow for the growth and maintenance of relationships between funders and Indigenous communities, funders could be seen as attempting to address the

common requirement for Indigenous communities and businesses to conform with colonial cultural practices.

Flexibility of Funding and Eligible Expenses

Eligibility limitations

Many of the agriculture programs are designed to support existing commercial operations, often with minimum revenue requirements. For example, the Buy BC Cost-Shared Funding requires applicants to have an annual revenue greater than $30,000 to apply. There is almost no funding for start up expenses for new commercial enterprises, or growth from lower revenue generation operations.

Agriculture programs may also focus on commodities which are not the focus of some Indigenous operations, particularly if there is a traditional food focus. For fish, seafood, or forest related enterprises, this is further complicated by the division of authority and oversight among government ministries.

Difficulty finding or accessing appropriate funding due to the comprehensive and community-focused nature of much Indigenous agriculture and food work.

Many agriculture and food-specific funding opportunities focus on commercial agriculture and provide limited or no support for intentionally approaching the development of sustainable food security and increased food sovereignty for Indigenous communities over commercial production. This can restrict communities from accessing funding in amounts and formats that would make long term sustainable development of these projects possible.

While there are some funding opportunities from health or culture-focused funders for this work, they are typically small amounts that must be applied for repeatedly and may not contribute significantly to efforts toward making funded projects sustainable. By recognizing this aspect of Indigenous cultures, and intentionally working toward developing a structure which would allow for the growth and maintenance of relationships between funders and Indigenous communities, funders could be seen as attempting to address the common requirement for Indigenous communities and businesses to conform with colonial cultural practices.

Many funding opportunities require detailed implementation and activity plans that project managers are hampered in altering as a response to shifting project and environmental conditions, this inhibits a change to the most effective pathway for the project to meet desired outcomes. In some cases, funders are responsive and flexible enough for project to successfully refocus activities, but the processes and timelines required and limits on changing approach can often lead to difficulty in project success with intended outcomes. This can be a significant problem for food and agriculture projects, which are often required to work with seasonal production and short windows of activity for immediate and long term success, and may have unforeseen immediate need for changing expenditure plans. Any delay in addressing changing conditions may lead to failure of a food and agriculture project and reduced opportunity for future success.

Restricted eligibility of expenses under some funding programs.

Many funding programs have restrictions on eligibility of expenses that funding can be applied to. In some cases, this can restrict the opportunities available to successfully support the development of Indigenous agriculture and food initiatives to the point of sustainability. Limits on capital expenditures, purchase of production-focused materials such as seeds and inputs, program management, or supporting a need for increased labour can all contribute to this problem. If available funding for these and other items were more accessible, Indigenous agriculture initiatives could engage in planning that would incorporate support for these costs on a temporary basis while building initiative sustainability.

Recognition of First Nations as rights-holders

There is an overall lack of recognition for the unique situation and placement of Indigenous people, communities, and Nations as rights-holders within funding program design

Indigenous people and communities are in a unique position as rights-holders with sovereignty and self-determination within Canada and provincial jurisdictions. The structure of current funding can sometimes fail to recognize this reality and approach support for the development of Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives with an inappropriate lens. An example of this is seen in the language used in the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which is a funding agreement between the federal government and the Provinces and Territories to support food and agriculture programs. The programs are delivered by provincial/territorial governments and are cost shared between the federal and provincial/territorial governments. In Schedule 1 of the current Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) agreement, Indigenous peoples are identified as eligible recipients (where applicable) with the phrase *Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented groups.* The wording used in the recent Guelph Statement on the upcoming policy framework that will replace CAP is slightly different (emphasis is theirs):

> *Work to address barriers to participation and consider the needs of **underrepresented groups** such as youth and women, and **strengthen relationships with Indigenous Peoples** to better support sector participation.*

Addressing these separate and distinct issues (participation of underrepresented groups and relationships with Indigenous Peoples) within the same statement continues to minimize the significance and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples within Canada. Effective and appropriate funding support for the development of Indigenous agriculture initiatives should take an approach that fully recognizes the nature of the relationship between Canadian governments and Indigenous Peoples, national and jurisdictional responsibilities that come as a direct result of this relationship, and rights of sovereignty and self-determination for First Nations and Indigenous communities.

Current programming structures that may have been developed with the intention of reducing administrative burden and barriers to accessing funding for Indigenous communities and businesses may act to reduce or remove the autonomy of those being funded. One example of this is the functioning of the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program (IADP), where applicants are limited to a preapproved list of potential consultants. Some participants in this program that we spoke to felt that this contributed to difficulty communicating with their consultant, consultant misunderstanding of community goals and

opportunities, development of business plans that were unlikely to be followed through by the community, and overall failure of completed projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Explore opportunities to design Ministry programming with a focus on removing identified barriers for Indigenous producers and communities to access funding in a way that is able to meet their needs, including cost-shared programming supported by upcoming National Policy Frameworks.**

There may be some opportunities to approach program development and allocating existing budgets (both provincial and cost-shared) to support removal of identified barriers such as eligibility of capital costs or expanded support for operations during the start-up phase.

For example, if the upcoming National Policy Framework agreement contains similar language to the current CAP agreement, some of the identified gaps in funding could potentially be addressed through the development of Designated Programs. One example of this is the inclusion of eligible capital costs. The CAP Multilateral Framework Agreement (MFA) indicates that there are limits on program costs in excess of $500,000 of Canada's contribution related to capital items, but also goes on to say that such costs constitute eligible expenses if the amount is included in a Designated Program that is included in the bilateral agreement between the province and the government of Canada. There are some further restrictions, including the need for a minimum contribution from the final recipient of at least 25% of capital cost, which would need to be taken into account during program design.

Many of the clauses restricting eligible activities and spending for CAP programming as outlined in the MFA also allow exceptions as specified in Bilateral Agreements. This includes the flexibility to negotiate all clauses related to what constitutes eligible expenses for program or administrative costs, as well as ineligibility of:

- Normal and on-going maintenance costs incurred by recipients, and,
- Use of funding to subsidize purchase of common multi-use items

There may also be an opportunity to explore combining provincially-allocated funding with cost-shared to increase flexibility of programming.

The Ministry should enter Bilateral negotiations with a clear priority for supporting Indigenous Agriculture, a detailed understanding of the required funding eligibility, and the intent to ensure they can be funded through the upcoming NPF agreement.

2. **Work with the First Nations Leadership Council and other BC Government Ministries, including the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, to explore the development of a distinctions based verification of Indigenous identity for BC public institutions to follow when reviewing applicants for resources targeted to Indigenous people.**

This process must recognize and consider the needs of non-status First Nations people whose nations may be in other provinces, and/or may have limited information as to their family ancestry, as well as Métis people and Inuit living in BC who have differential processes to determine their membership or citizenship. Wherever possible, this process should be led by First Nations, Métis and Inuit leadership.

3. Explore options to concentrate and coordinate Provincial, Federal and Private-sector funding to support increased flexibility of available funding support and effectiveness of targeted funds.

There may be opportunities to concentrate and coordinate funds intended to support Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives in ways that support increased flexibility of eligible expenses and increased success for Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives, while also supporting increased success for funders to meet their goals. Collaborative funding structures may be able to reduce barriers to accessing funding, or could potential allow funding from multiple sources to be applied to individual projects without the need for those seeking funding to develop and maintain multiple relationships with funders.

Interest in supporting Indigenous food and agriculture initiatives is increasing across public and private sector funders with a variety of purposes, including support for commercial agriculture and food production, food security and sovereignty, economic development and employment, health, culture, and language, Collaborative funding structures could enable increased success for meeting funder objectives by magnifying the impact of funds contributed by each source. This kind of activity would solidify the position of the Ministry as a leading voice in support for Indigenous agriculture and food overall while simultaneously increasing the potential for Ministry funding support to have a positive impact.

Indigenous food and agriculture projects that may be difficult to fund under current program frameworks, such as community food sovereignty and security development without a commercial aspect, could potentially access funding through this structure. Activities to explore and undertake under this recommendation include the following:

- Combining federal-provincial cost-shared funding with provincial funds to address activities that are found to be ineligible for cost shared funding
- Convening discussions between Indigenous leaders, private funders, and the Ministry to explore opportunities for public-private collaborations on funding support and the possibility of administering private funds through an Indigenous-lead agency
- Convening discussions aimed at concentrating access to funding with other Provincial Ministries with an interest in supporting aspects of Indigenous Agriculture and Food, including but not limited to:
    - Ministry of Health
    - Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
    - Ministry of Forests
    - Ministry of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship
    - Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
    - Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
    - Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

4. **Negotiate and create a Designated Program within the next National Policy Framework for supporting the development and expansion of Indigenous agriculture under the *Building sector capacity, growth and competitiveness* priority in the upcoming agriculture policy framework.**

If the potential for creating and supporting provincial Designated Programs under identified multi-lateral priority areas in the upcoming policy framework is similar to the current situation under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, there should be a significant opportunity to demonstrate and ensure Provincial and Ministry commitment to supporting development of Indigenous agriculture through this process. A Designated Program could be designed with the flexibility to support the development and operation of an Indigenous-led program administration and extension agency while simultaneously funding and delivering agriculture programs directly to First Nations and Indigenous entrepreneurs.

5. **Support the creation of an Indigenous-led funding administration and extension agency with regional representation.**

A representative Indigenous-led agency would be able to develop funding models and administration processes that have the potential to address many of the existing gaps and barriers to accessing funding, increase collaboration between communities, and support increased success for Indigenous agriculture and food initiatives. Development of an Indigenous-led agency under the next agriculture policy framework could potentially include support for the following, among other activities:

- Governance and planning
- Administration of Indigenous Agriculture Initiative funds
- Regional relationship development and promotion of funds and programming
- Development of First Nations-focused extension services and community collaboration
- Development of Indigenous agriculture Sector Initiatives that support increased participation and success by First Nations, such as collaborative marketing or storage infrastructure

An Indigenous-led agency which receives a mandate from and is accountable to the First Nations Leadership Council, for example, will be at an advantage in engaging with First Nations people living in BC, as the information about the services will also come through the nations. Nations are more likely to collaborate together, working through an Indigenous-led agency. Staff from an Indigenous-led agency is more likely to be trusted by Indigenous people seeking services, and the organization is more likely to be developed in such a way as to support relationships and more comprehensive support, in keeping with approaches implemented by a wide range of Indigenous-led organizations. Where leadership intimately understands and has experience with barriers likely to be faced by potential applicants, programs are more likely to be designed to minimize these barriers wherever possible, and can advocate to funders to change processes where necessary.

Administering a funding agency following broader trends in Indigenous-led organizations may require more funding than administering the program through a non-Indigenous agency. For example, if the

agency staff was expected to develop and maintain relationships with Indigenous organizations and First Nations in a region in order to increase uptake of services, and staff were further asked to develop and maintain relationships with funding recipients so they can better support the recipient to succeed with their business or initiative, including granting flexibility to change tactics if needed, this takes time. This time is rarely possible within other funding agencies. However, this project has found again what other research has shown in the past – Indigenous-led businesses or organizations are less likely to seek funding from non-Indigenous led organizations, or which require a high administrative burden. If the goal is to increase spread and effectiveness of funding for Indigenous agriculture, a change is in approach is required.

The Ministry could work with appropriate resources, such as existing Indigenous-led agencies in B.C., Program Administration agencies, and other public and private funders to provide support for building appropriate and effective structures around governance and relationship building, community support, and administration of funding programs.

6. Work to develop multilateral support for the inclusion of Indigenous agriculture as a priority under the 2028-2033 agricultural framework agreement.

Indigenous peoples are an important and growing portion of the population in Canada, with many communities located in appropriate areas for agricultural production and an increasing interest in Indigenous-produced agricultural products across Canada and internationally. Increasing development and participation of Indigenous farmers, entrepreneurs, and communities in food and agriculture represents an opportunity for economic development of First Nations, provinces and territories, and the national agricultural and food industry overall.

By developing and supporting the targeted Indigenous Agriculture Development Program under the current CAP agreement, British Columbia is already in a leadership position on this issue. Action on this recommendation would provide an opportunity for improving and maintaining B.C.'s position as a leader among provincial and territorial jurisdictions on the issue of supporting successful agriculture and food development among First Nations, increased participation and improved outcomes in agriculture and food for Indigenous people.

Building support for including Indigenous agriculture as a priority in upcoming Multilateral policy framework negotiations may enable increased flexibility in eligibility of expenses more broadly under any future policy framework.

APPENDIX A: CASE STUDIES

Case Study: Yekm Food Hub

The Yekm Food Hub, a project of the Lytton First Nation (LFN), is the first Indigenous-led food hub in BC. It is a comprehensive community project seeking to develop and support local Indigenous agricultural production, food security, and opportunities for economic development. Yekm Food Hub provides:

- commercial grade processing and storage facilities;
- knowledge development and training opportunities in food and agriculture;
- support for Nation members to strengthen their personal food production and preservation;
- support for community members through food distribution; and,
- a venue for sharing cultural and Traditional Knowledge, and to practice and promote language.

Initially begun with a focus on agriculture, processing and food storage, Yekm is working on expanding their participation in traditional hunting, fishing and food gathering activities to support increased food security, cultural and Traditional Knowledge transfer, and to create economic opportunities for Gatherers.

This program was developed with the support of a strong advisory and coordinating committee that was able to secure significant funds for initial implementation of the program from the following sources:

- New Relationship Trust – Policy Development for Food Hub Operation - $25,000
- Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (IAFSI) – Lytton Agriculture Program and Food Hub. Ministers Contribution $1,041,831; Recipient's Contribution (LFN) $179,241. Total Project: $1,221,072
- BC Rural Dividend Fund - $35,000
- Northern Development Initiative Trust – Food hub equipment ($105,000) and Building Renovation ($10k from LFN) Province of BC - $40,000 in addition for total $155,000 Project Costs

Yekm Food Hub was heavily impacted by wildfires in the summer of 2021, which decimated the town of Lytton and destroyed the building where much of the project activity was taking place. This included the loss of newly purchased equipment for the Food Hub's operation. As a result, the operation was relocated to the grounds of Spapium Farm, an on-reserve farm owned and operated by Yekm Coordinator Paula Cranmer-Underhill. They were able to secure a mobile commercial kitchen for the project, and are working to have more products available for sale in an eventual permanent location. They have also started a new project to train and support Gatherers to harvest, store, and market wild mushrooms, funded by the First Nations Health Authority (operations) and United Way (capital).

Challenges that Yekm Food Hub faces with food and agriculture funding programs:

- **Application, administration, and reporting** – Yekm Food Hub benefited from the participation of an experienced grant writer as a volunteer. Without their active commitment and participation, the realisation of this plan would have been much more difficult.

- **Funding opportunity timelines** – Funding opportunities through government are often tied to short windows for application and for completing related spending. This can be problematic due to capacity issues and also the seasonal nature of most agricultural and food production work. For example, the recently begun Wild Mushroom Project training for Gatherers has to be completed before the end of March. As wild mushrooms are not in season at this time, participants will be shown potential mushroom harvesting sites and have to learn harvesting techniques without the opportunity to practice them while harvesting mushrooms.
- **Lack of ongoing relationships with funders** – The structures of funding organisations do not commonly support ongoing relationship development between funders and those seeking funding. These relationships can reduce the administrative burden of funding applications and the requirement to explain the work being done every time funding is applied for. Ongoing relationships with funders support ongoing project success and build trust, particularly where funders are supporting Indigenous communities.
- **Limited and inflexible expense eligibility –** Funding opportunities are often tied to lists of eligible and ineligible expenses, with a requirement to get any changes in planned expenditures approved by the funder. For Yekm Food Hub, this meant that they would not have been able to procure funding for the Wild Mushroom Project (mainly funded by the First Nations Health Authority), if they hadn't also been able to get a contribution from the United Way to support the purchase of a truck. This kind of capital expenditure is ineligible under FNHA funding. After Lytton was destroyed by wildfire, Yekm had to ask funders for flexibility in supporting procurement of alternate equipment that was needed as a result of that catastrophe. This is an extreme example of the difficulty associated with changing project approach as a result of external factors. However, the need to adjust project activities and even goals is common, and the current processes typically in place make it difficult for project coordinators to respond in a timely and nimble way.

Case Study: Qqs Project Society

Qqs Projects Society (Qqs – pronounced "kucks") is a Heiltsuk charitable organization with a mandate to support Heiltsuk youth, culture, community, and environment. Their vision and programming are led by the Heiltsuk community in and around Bella Bella, and extend throughout Heiltsuk Territory.

As with many Indigenous organisations, Qqs activities are multi-faceted and always include a component of Heiltsuk culture and language. Qqs has been involved in land-based learning programs for youth and families work since 1999. In addition to those programs, they also work in the space of education (a community library, a collaborative field school with UVic Geography, and a value-added woodshop for teaching woodworking), food security (a community garden, a hamper program and food bank, and 1:1 support for over 150 local households growing food at home), and a roster of collaborative programs with other Heiltsuk organizations.

Qqs programs have always had active participation from the community, and there was an increase in local interest in food production and food security during the pandemic. As a result of this demand and the distancing necessary during the pandemic, they launched the decentralized Granny Gardens project; Qqs distributed planters, soil, seeds, and seedlings to community households and provided video chat and social media supports to home gardeners. This was highly successful and resulted in program participation growing from a couple dozen families to about 150 community households.

In the fall of 2020, Qqs did a community food security assessment on behalf of the Heiltsuk Interagency Directors Committee, a cohort of directors from across local community organisations. The outcome of this project was high community support for the continuation and expansion of food security programming, including increasing access to traditional foods, increasing local food production, and building more household-level skills around food systems. With this direction from the community, Qqs continues to operate and evolve their food-related work.

Qqs faces a number of challenges in realising their goals around increased food production and food security. These include:

- **Availability of appropriate land** – Qqs is a nonprofit with an office located on reserve. While Qqs has possession of an 80-hectare program site in a remote location and use of a small lot on reserve, there is a limited amount of land suitable for food production in the community.
- **Suitable facilities** – Qqs has limited access to facilities such as commercial kitchens, cold storage, and other facilities that would support an expansion of their food production and knowledge transfer activities (e.g. food preservation workshops). There are also needs for expanded greenhouse facilities and production-related infrastructure.
- **Capacity development** – while Qqs has significant capacity with their current team, if they were able to secure additional property, they would like to develop their programming into an expanded food-security hub. If this goal were realised, they may need support to develop the required staff capacity within the organisation in the early stages of program development.

Qqs Projects Society receives most of their funding through working with private funders. There is significant reluctance within the organisation to work with government funders. Some of the factors contributing to this reluctance include the following:

- **Colonial funding structures and difficulty developing dialogue** – In the experience of Qqs, government funders are difficult to engage in conversation around the aspects of funding structures that contribute to the colonial relationship between government and Indigenous peoples. There is often no opportunity to build ongoing relationships or work to reduce barriers in a collaborative and ongoing way. Relations are at the heart of Indigenous culture, process, and practice. This needs to be recognized and included in any attempt to reduce barriers and increase success for Indigenous food and agriculture.
- **Limited understanding of community structures and the role of tribal council** – Many funding opportunities for Indigenous communities are tied to the support of the elected Chief and Council, the political structure responsible for governing First Nations under the Indian Act. This requirement fails to recognize the non-political work that is being done in many communities by arms-length organisations, as well as the heavy burden of administration and existing commitments faced by most or all Nation Band Offices.
- **Restrictive and inflexible funding eligibility** – Qqs Project Society is focused on meeting the needs of their community. Restrictive requirements around eligible expenses and bureaucratic structures around shifting project opportunities, including reporting requirements, can make it difficult for Qqs to meet their commitments to the community and respond to changing conditions for project delivery. These factors are also seen as a component of the continuing colonial relationship between Indigenous groups and jurisdictional governments in B.C.

Case Study: First Equestrian Horse Ranch

First Equestrian Horse Ranch (FEHR) is a mixed agricultural operation owned and operated by Tawnie and Jonny Fehr, and located along the west bank of the Fraser River, south of Quesnel. FEHR was initially developed and continues to operate as an equestrian facility offering riding lessons and horse boarding, Equine-Assisted Learning and Mental Health programs, horsemanship camps, and retreats. While the property at FEHR is significant, with about 118 acres of usable land, the suitability for supporting a larger herd of horses or expanded forage or crop production is limited by agricultural suitability of the property.

With the development of the COVID-19 pandemic and related disengagement from in-person activities, the Fehrs saw a need to diversify their operation to maintain sustainability. After a lot of research and consideration, they decided to pursue production of meat goats as an opportunity that fit with their interests, property potential, and market needs. They are currently building their herd through breeding and acquisition, with a goal of developing a herd of around 200 breeding does by the end of 2023 and producing approximately 500 goats for sale annually. The existing equine facility on the property is a significant support for a FEHR market advantage – they will be able to kid their does earlier in the year by sheltering them in the indoor riding arena and get them to market at a time of high prices and lower competition. They plan to market their animals through live auction.

FEHR did significant research and decided to pursue goat meat production prior to receiving support for developing this aspect of their business through the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program (IADP). They came across IADP funding while searching for opportunities to support and expand mental health-related programming that they offer with a particular focus on local First Nations. The FEHR experience with IADP fell short of their expectations, with limited opportunity to select and work with a suitable consultant, and a final product that was less useful than they expected, particularly for step 2 of the program.

They have also prepared supporting documentation and planned to apply to the Small Farm Business Acceleration Pilot Program, but it has not been opened this year. Tawnie Fehr has experience in government, business, and participation in a variety of associations that has provided her with the competence and confidence to seek funding as appropriate. She is committed to supporting the Indigenous farming community and would welcome the opportunity for an organisation or platform that would support peer-peer networking, support, and mentorship.

Challenges that FEHR has faced when seeking funding:

- **Communication of funding opportunities** – There is no central location for posting of funding opportunities or the ability to subscribe and receive opportunities as they arise. This makes searching for funding time consuming and understanding what is available difficult. Program communications, combined with first come, first serve priority and short application windows, may lead to wasted effort if the information available is not kept well updated.
- **Application, administration, and reporting –** This process can be intimidating. While the Fehr's have expertise in navigating the processes attached to funding, they did discuss their concern

about how difficult the processes make seeking funding for inexperienced entrepreneurs and communities.

- **Limited expense eligibility –** FEHR is facing a need for expanded infrastructure (including fencing and irrigation) to ensure viability of their new venture. They have had difficulty finding appropriate funding support for these needs, which will enable a successful operation
- **High interest financing opportunities –** FEHR has explored many options for funding and financing both the existing equine facility and their expansion into goat production. They have found that many of the financing opportunites available for Indigenous operators end up to be high interest loans, even with a forgivable portion, and pursing these options has not been a good opportunity for them.
- **Restrictive program requirements –** The structure of the IADP, while simple for application and administration by the participant, restricts the opportunities of applicants to work with consultants of their choice. The value received from this process was also less than expected.

Case Study: Bangin' Bannock

Bangin' Bannock is a small but growing food manufacturer, founded and operated by Destiny Hoostie (Assiniboine) and Kelsey Coutts (Nak'azdli Dakelh), two urban Indigenous women living in the Metro Vancouver Area. Their main product is a packaged dry Bannock mix, currently sold online and at retailers around the Lower Mainland and in Kahawake, Quebec.

This local food manufacturing business was founded during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic when the founders enrolled in and met during an online program supporting entrepreneurship for Indigenous youth. They were able to develop the idea and begin initial sales during the course of this project, but the business was able to take off and begin flourishing after they received business planning support through Phase 1 of the Indigenous Agriculture Development Program, and were able to develop Health-Canada requirements for nutritional labelling and packaging. Their experience with the consultant that they worked with during Phase 1 of IADP was positive, but they also noted that working with an Indigenous consultant would have been preferable. They felt that funding offered to Indigenous people would generally be more effective, attractive to, and comfortable for applicants if it were delivered through an Indigenous-lead organisation. They are currently working on a Phase 2 project funded by IADP to further develop the business.

Destiny and Kelsey are both proud Indigenous women who have found a welcoming and supportive community of Indigenous entrepreneurs since founding Bangin' Bannock. They struggled initially to find a suitable commercial kitchen for production, as the cost of using available commissary kitchens was prohibitively high. They were able to gain access to a facility through the cooperation of a local First Nation. Goals for their business include connecting and collaborating more with local First Nations and urban Indigenous people to actively promote and build the Indigenous economy in the city, and to create opportunities and act as mentors for Indigenous youth interested in entrepreneurship.

As their business grows, Kelsey and Destiny are looking at the possibility of using co-packers to produce their product. They would prefer to employ and support Indigenous youth in this role, but do not have access to appropriate facilities or wage support that could make this possible. They suggested that the development of an Indigenous food hub and incubator facility in the Metro Vancouver area would allow Indigenous entrepreneurs to access appropriate facilities, collaborate with and mentor each other, support Indigenous youth participation in food entrepreneurship, and foster relationships with local First Nations.

Challenges that Bangin' Bannock has faced when seeking funding

As a relatively new, privately owned business, Bangin' Bannock has been successful with all funding opportunities they have pursued. However, they faced the following challenges:

- **Communication of funding opportunities** – The distribution of funding opportunities across multiple organisations has made it difficult for Bangin' Bannock to identify potential opportunities to support their business development. They suggested that a centralized funding hub with the opportunity for applicant profiles would be one way to enable access to funding, reduce administration demands for applications, and easy tracking of business funding applications and activities.

- **Limitations on available support due to size of business or stage of development** – Bangin' Bannock has been ineligible for some of the development support and financing opportunities they have considered due to the current size of their business or their stage of business development. They have considered accessing financing through an Aboriginal Capital Corporation but are still developing the business plan required for eligibility. They also pursued a Future Entrepreneur program for Indigenous businesses but had not reached the level of sales required to be part of the program.

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APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Beangka Elliot, Parks Canada Sea Garden Restoration Project

Blair Mirau, Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society

Chris McElroy, Songhees First Nation

Clayton Harry, Stswecemc Xgat'tem First Nation

Daniel Penny, Williams Lake First Nation and Sugar Cane Cannabis

Dave Moore, River Select

Destiny Hoostie, Bangin' Bannock

Erich Kelch, Parks Canada Sea Garden Restoration Project

Harold Aljam, First Nations Agriculture Association

Jacob Beaton, Tea Creek Farm

Jess Housty, Qqs Project Society

Julia Flinton, Williams Lake First Nation

Justin Davis, Doig River First Nation

Karlien McGrath, Nak'azdli Whu'ten Community Garden

Kathleen Johnnie, Hul'q'umi'num Land and Resources Society

Kelsey Coutts, Bangin' Bannock

Lisa Troy, Skeetchestn Learning Garden Centre (Skeetchestn Indian Band)

Lorna Shuter, First Nations Agriculture Association, Shulus Garden (Lower Nicola Indian Band)

Michael McGee, Bridge River Indian Band (Xwisten)

Paula Cranmer-Underhill, Yekm Food Hub (Lytton First Nation)

Shannon Didier, Lil'wat Nation

Tawnie Fehr, Fehr Ranch

Trenton Mason, Blue Canoe Orchard

Trevor Kempthorne, First Nations Agriculture Association

Violet Hedin, Dragonfly Farms

APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO INDIGENOUS FARMERS and Food Processors IN B.C.

This appendix summarises programs reviewed as part of this project.

Indigenous Agriculture Development Program

Program	Indigenous Agriculture Development Program Stream 1
Purpose	The program provides two steps of financial support to work with a B.C. Ministry of Agriculture pre-approved Qualified Business Consultant. Services include feasibility analysis, financial and business planning and skills development for agriculture and food production and processing activities, including for community food security.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Indigenous governments, communities and organizations
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Step 1: Agricultural Opportunities Assessment • Up to $5,000 for a Qualified Business Consultant to complete a feasibility assessment of agricultural development options, food security planning, and/or business planning functions related to agriculture and food production, processing and other associated activities • Up to $2,000 for community engagement Step 2: Financial and Business Planning • Up to $10,000 for a Qualified Business Consultant for financial analysis and business planning • Up to $2000 for community engagement
Application timelines	Application intake opens in April; open until funding fully allocated
Funding amount	Step 1: $7,000 Step 2: $12,000
Application assistance	• Qualified Business Consultant works with organization to submit application (at no cost to community) • Indigenous Agriculture Development Program Staff available for questions
Project timelines	90 to 150 days Must finish by last day of February
Funding	Funding flows from Ministry to Qualified Business Consultant
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/indigenous-agriculture-development-program

Program	Indigenous Agricultural Development Program: Stream 2
Purpose	Designed to build business management skills and knowledge through coaching and with access to professional business and financial planning services from a pre-approved Qualified Business Consultant.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Indigenous entrepreneur residents of British Columbia
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Step 1: Business plan and coaching • up to $3,000 of business development and coaching services from a Qualified Business Consultant to develop a business plan and/or enhance your existing business plan.Up to $2,000 for community engagement Step 2: Specialized business planning and management • up to $5,000 of specialized business planning and coaching services from a Qualified Business Consultant to undertake financial analysis and specialized business planning and to strengthen business management knowledge and skills
Application timelines	Application intake opens in April; open until funding fully allocated
Funding amount	Step 1: $3,000 Step 2: $5,000
Application assistance	• Qualified Business Consultant works with entrepreneur to submit application (at no cost to entrepreneur) • Indigenous Agriculture Development Program Staff available for questions
Project timelines	90 to 150 days Must finish by last day of February
Funding	Funding flows from Ministry to Qualified Business Consultant
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/indigenous-agriculture-development-program

Program	B.C. Agrifood & Seafood Market Development Program
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Purpose	Supports development of export focused marketing skills and plans
Who can apply?	• B.C. based producers, processors, cooperatives, industry associations, boards and councils, with at least $30,000 in sales in the past two years • Must contribute 30%-50% of total project budget in cash • Fishers and seafood harvesters are not eligible for program funding
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Market research & planning activities (must hire a pre-qualified consultant; complete a pre-approved market skills training course) • Export development activities (advertising, trade shows, buyers' meetings, trade missions, food service promotions)
Application timelines	• Consultant calls Nov 24 – Dec 8 • Applications close Dec 9 • Technical Review Feb 2022
Funding amount	Industry Associations – eligible for up to $75,000 / year Producers, processors and cooperatives – eligible for up to $50,000 / year
Application assistance	Consultant calls available Nov 24-Dec 8
Project timelines	April 1, 2022 to Feb 24, 2023
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program Address	https://iafbc.ca/market-development/

B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program

Program	BC Agri-Business Planning Program: Business Plan Coaching
Purpose	To support development of business plans and improve business management skills for small agricultural producers
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Sole proprietors, partnerships, or corporations that meet the following: • Reported total farm annual gross revenue of less than $30,000 in the previous 2 years • Primary agricultural producer in BC with products intended for sale • All owners must reside in BC • Requires business plan demonstrating growth to over $30,000 gross revenue within next 3 years
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Support from a Qualified Business Consultant to further develop business plans and improve business management skills
Application timelines	Currently closed. Applications reopening in Spring 2022
Funding amount	• Up to $3,000
Application assistance	Application prepared in consultation with Qualified Business Consultant
Project timelines	Completion 90 days from approved project start date
Funding	Funding paid directly to Qualified Business Consultant
Delivery Agent	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program

Program	BC Agri-Business Planning Program: Business Disaster Recovery Planning
Purpose	To support development of disaster recovery planning for BC producers and agricultural associations.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Business entities including sole proprietors, partnerships, corporations, or other associations of persons (including cooperatives) who meet the following criteria: • Impacted by external event interrupting normal production and flow of operations. Ex: fire, flood, drought, tornado, diseas outbreak, COVID-19, illness, or death • Primary producer in BC or agriculture, food, or beverage processor (with 51% of direct cost of production originating in BC. If raw materials are available in sufficient quantities from BC producers, they must be used). Gross revenues reported in the previous year must be greater than $30,000 • Owners must reside in BC
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Consultant business planning services to develop an immediate and long-term recovery plan
Application timelines	Currently closed. Applications reopening in Spring 2022
Funding amount	• Up to $3,000 for individual producers • Up to $20,000 for groups
Application assistance	Application prepared in consultation with Qualified Business Consultant
Project timelines	Completion 90 days from approved start date (individuals) or 120 days from approved start date (groups)
Funding	Funding paid directly to Qualified Business Consultant
Delivery Agent	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program

Program	BC Agri-Business Planning Program: Specialized Business Planning	
Purpose	To provide targeted business planning and coaching to primary producers and agriculture, food, or beverage processors	
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)	
Who can apply?	Business entities including sole proprietors, partnerships, corporations, or other associations of persons (including cooperatives) who meet the following criteria: • Primary producer in BC or agriculture, food, or beverage processor (with 51% of direct cost of production originating in BC. If raw materials are available in sufficient quantities from BC producers, they must be used). Gross revenues reported in the previous year must be greater than $30,000 • Owners must reside in BC	
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Business consulting services to develop a plan in one or a combination of the following:	
	• Business structures • Production economics • Business strategy • Cash flow and financial analysis	• Value added ventures • Risk assessment and migration •
Application timelines	Currently closed. Applications reopening in Spring 2022	
Funding amount	• Up to $3,000 for individual producers • Up to $20,000 for groups	
Application assistance	Application prepared in consultation with Qualified Business Consultant	
Project timelines	Completion 90 days from approved start date (individuals) or 120 days from approved start date (groups)	
Funding	Funding paid directly to Qualified Business Consultant	
Delivery Agent	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agri-business-planning-program	

Program	Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)
Purpose	To support producers in reducing environmental impact resulting from their agricultural activities
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	• Farms, ranches and hobby farms • First Nations agricultural operations • Agricultural operations with a lease (private or Crown) to use the land and make alterations New in 2022 – those without farm status are now eligible.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Assessment of environmental risks and development of a completed Environmental Farm Planning workbook. By choosing to voluntarily address these risks, the operator receives an EFP sign and may become eligible for BMP funding.
Application timelines	No information available – "applications now closed"
Funding amount	Cost of EFP advisor support for developing an Environmental Farm Plan
Application assistance	Yes – initial application can begin with a phone call or completion of a fairly simple web form. Rest of the process is guided by IAF and EFP advisors
Project timelines	No information available
Funding	Paid directly to program providers – no costs to participants
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program address	• https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/environmental-farm-plan • https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/

Program	Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) Program
Purpose	To increase adoption of technology and practices to mitigate high-risk activities or emerging challenges
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	B.C. producers with Farm Status who have developed and completed a current (within 5 years) Environmental Farm Plan may be eligible – BMP funding is to support implementation of an EFP on-farm action plan.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Unclear. Eligible projects include: • Waste management • Air quality control • Emissions control • Soil and riparian integrity • Water quality • Environmental impacts
Application timelines	Applications now closed. "Subscribe to the newsletter to learn more about 2022 BMP applications"
Funding amount	Projects may be funded up to 100% to a maximum of $70,000 per farm operation. (this was on AFF website – may apply to the max. for funding of one farm under all categories, does not indicate anything about each category - annually reviewed)
Application assistance	No information available.
Project timelines	No information available – site notes that there is information coming to those who subscribe but not when it will.
Funding	No information available
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program Address	• https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/beneficial-management-practices • https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/#aboutBMP

Program	Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program
Purpose	To increase the competitiveness, resiliency, and innovation of the British Columbia (B.C.) agriculture and food sector through facilitated knowledge and technology transfer. Priority given to topics including: • Regenerative Agriculture • Climate Action • Addressing Labour Challenges • Farm Business Management • Production
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (using Canadian Agricultural Partnership funds)
Who can apply?	Unclear

What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	Stream 1: Subject Matter Expert for Knowledge Development
	• SME activities such as conferences, AGMS, community meetings, or events
	Stream 2: Hands on Learning for Skill Development application
	• Activities that support the development of skills, such as:
	  • Field days/research trials
	  • Farm tours
	  • Technology training
	  • Hands-on workshops
	  • Experiential learning
	Stream 3: Hands on Learning Focused on Regenerative Agriculture application
	• Activities that aim to increase participants knowledge regarding ability to restore soils, water, and biodiversity health to improve their farming ecosystem

Application timelines	March 31 – April 22, 2022
Funding amount	Stream 1: Subject Matter Expert for Knowledge Development. Cost-shared eligible amount up to $1,500 (applicant contribution cash or in-kind) Stream 2: Hands on Learning for Skill Development: Cost-shared eligible amount up to $7,500 (applicant contribution cash or in-kind)
Application assistance	Specifically offered for Indigenous applicants
Project timelines	Activities to take place May 21, 2022 – March 10, 2023
Funding	Applicants are reimbursed upon completion of the project and submission of proof of payment.
Source	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/knowledge-transfer-events

Food Safety Programs

Program	On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFS)
Purpose	To help BC farm-based businesses address existing food safety issues, increase implementation of food safety practices and to meet national (e.g. SFCR came into effect Jan 15, 2019) and international food safety requirements.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Provincially or federally licensed agrifood businesses based in BC that include: • Farmers/growers producing crops for human consumption • Producers/ranchers raising animals for human consumption • Packers or co-packers that handle food for human consumption
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Activities and activities directly related to: • Conducting Food Safety Gap-Assessments (or pre-audit) to identify and document risks,issues and opportunities to improve food safety capacity, systems and practices; • Implementing Food Safety Improvement related to Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Good Handling Practices (GHPs), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and HACCP based food safety systems in their operations; and • Achieving a successful third-party OFFS or HACCP final audit(s)/certification(s).
Application timelines	Applications now closed for final year of the program due to overwhelming demand

Funding amount	Max. of 70% cost-shared funding up to $10,000 overall per eligible applicant. Project can be in the following categories:
	• Gap-Assessment (or pre-audit) – 70% cost-share up to $10,000
	• Food Safety Improvement Activities (GAPs or GHPs) –
	  ○ Equipment/facility upgrade for regulatory compliance – 70% cost share to a maximum of $7,500
	  ○ All other Food Safety Improvement (systems, facilities, and equipment) – 70% cost share up to $10,000
	• Third party HACCP based audit – 70% cost share up to 10,000

Application assistance	None, but you must fill out an eligibility application that is assessed before you can apply for the funding.
Project timelines	Depends on contract
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	Food Processing Skills Canada
Program Address	• http://bconfarmfoodsafety.com/ • https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/on-farm-food-safety

Program	Post-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFS)
Purpose	To support the B.C. agriculture and food industry to address existing food safety issues, increase implementation of food safety practices, and to meet national and international food safety requirements.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Provincially or federally licensed agrifood businesses based in BC that include: • Food and beverage manufacturers • processors, transporters, warehouses, distributors, packers and importers) that handle food and beverage for human consumption • Abattoirs – must be registered with BC Premises Identification • processing facilities (beyond basic washing, grading and packaging) located on or off a farm premise and not covered by a certified on-farm food safety (OFFS) program. Limited to specific NAICS codes.

What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Max. of 70% cost-shared funding up to $20,000 overall per eligible applicant. Project can be in the following categories:
	• Gap-Assessment (or pre-audit) – 70% cost-share up to $20,000
	• Food Safety Improvement Activities (GAPs or GHPs) –
	  ○ Equipment/facility upgrade for regulatory compliance – 70% cost share to a maximum of $15,000
	  ○ All other Food Safety Improvement (systems, facilities, and equipment) – 70% cost share up to $20,000
	• Third party HACCP based audit – 70% cost share up to $20,000

Application timelines	Applications closed due to overwhelming demand.
Funding amount	Maximum of 70% cost-shared funding up to $20,000
Application assistance	No, but the first step is to submit an eligibility application that is assessed before you can apply for the funding.
Project timelines	Depends on contract.
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	Food Processing Skills Canada
Program Address	http://bcpostfarmfoodsafety.com/ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/post-farm-food-safety

Program	Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program
Purpose	To help BC agri-food producers, value-added food processors, academia, and others in the agri-food sector to accelerate the pace of innovation along the innovation continuum
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	The following bodies appropriately registered, licensed, and/or certified to conduct business in BC: • BC agriculture and agri-food producers and processors • Industry associations • Retailers, wholesalers and input, technology, support service providers • Other primary sector(eg. auction yards, fairs, warehouse storage, transport, import) • Other processing sector (eg. distributors, storage, transport, import) • Value chains (eg. producer-processor-distributor) • Research bodies, academic institutions, other research orgs. • Local Governments • Non-timber forest resource harvesters and wildcrafters • NGO/non-profit groups • Indigenous Peoples and other under-represented groups
What can be purchased? (Eligible Activities)	Eligible activities include late0-stage research and development, piloting and demonstration, and commercialization and adoption of innovative (new to BC) products, practices, or technologies
Application timelines	Applications closed as funding committed to end of 2023 Application required a two step process with about 3 weeks to complete each step and about 1.5 months in between. See below for application and project timelines
Funding amount	No set funding limits or cost-share ratios – determined on a case-by-case basis with maximum at 75% CBCAIP funding. “You will be required to contribute more than 25 of cash costs”. Factors include: • Potential to create a tangible benefit to BC Agriculture sector • Potential to enhance sector’s competitiveness, productive capacity, and sustainability • Degree of company specific vs. sector benefit
Application assistance	Full application evaluation criteria provided – helpful Potential applicants completed a Statement of Interest (SOI) which was evaluated prior to full application
Project timelines	In 2021, SOI intake opened August 31 and closed Sept 23 (3 weeks), SOI applicants were notified by end of Oct 2021, Full applications were open Nov 9-Dec 2. Applicants were notified by end of Feb 2022. Projects start April 1, 2022 and must be complete by Dec 31, 2022.
Funding	Funding received retro-actively, based on meeting interim/final project deliverables.
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program address	• https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/canada-bc-agri-innovation • https://iafbc.ca/agri-innovation/

Program	Farm Adaptation Innovator Program
Purpose	To build adaptive capacity and encourage the adoption of effective farm practice is to help mitigate impacts of climate change
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	• Individual BC agri-foods sector producers or groups of producers • BC agri-food industry associations/organisations • Input, technology, support and advisory services providers • Academic institutions and/or other organisations and private sector businesses • B.C. First Nation governments, organisations, individuals and corporations • BC local governments, including regional districts and municipalities
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Project types supported include applied research, pilots, demonstrations, and adoption facilitation in four different farm practice categories: • Soil and Crop management • Livestock, pasture and range management • Water management • Whole farm and business management
Application timelines	Unclear
Funding amount	Unclear
Application assistance	Unclear
Project timelines	Unclear
Funding	Unclear
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation and ARDCorp. Through the Climate Change Adaptation Program
Program Address	• https://bcclimatechangeadaptation.ca/ • https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/farm-adaptation-innovator-program

Traceability Programs

Program	Traceability Knowledge Transfer Program
Purpose	Provides funding support to agriculture, food, and seafood industry organizations for the purpose of educating their membership about traceability systems, practices, infrastructure and technologies.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Eligible industry organizations include: • Agriculture, food, or seafood industry associations • Farmer's institutes • 4-H clubs
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Traceability Subject Matter Expert to speak at an event for knowledge development. Eligible activities include SME fees, travel, lodging, facility and equipment rental, advertising and communications, and 10% administration cost
Application timelines	First come, first serve until funds are gone
Funding amount	Up to 100% of activity or event costs to a maximum of $1,500
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Up to 2023
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/traceability-knowledge-transfer

Program	Traceability Adoption Program
Purpose	Offers cost-shared funding to individual food, seafood and agriculture businesses to implement facility-based traceability practices systems, infrastructure and technologies. Funding is also available for training and consulting services.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Agriculture, food or seafood businesses such as: • Producers • transporters • packagers • Harvesters • warehouses • importers • processors • distributors • exporters All eligible participants must: • have an active business registration or GST number • Constitute a legal entity • Be based and and operating in BC • File business or farm taxes in BC • Be registered in Premises ID if a livestock or poultry operation
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Consultant fees for assessing, planning, or implementing the project (25% of total costs max) • Purchase and installation of hardwarte for traceability systems • Purchase and licensing of traceability software • Staff training by vendor or approved consultant • Incremental costs for procurement of a multi-use computer terminal where organisation does not have one • Incremental costs for purchase of multi-use handheld devices • Other as technology advances occur
Application timelines	Open Jan 24, 2022
Funding amount	70% of total project costs – some limitations depending on area of expense -up to maximum funding level eligible $16,000 max of funding available annually for each participant
Application assistance	No but Program Administrator may request additional documentation or clarification
Project timelines	All eligible activities must be completed before September 30, 2022. Claims must be submitted by earlier of : • Within 2 months of project completion • October 31, 2022
Funding	Administered by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Program Address	https://bctraceability.ca/traceability-adoption#2f350452-b98b-41fc-998d-64fb5f0e0351

Program	Traceability Value Chain Program
Purpose	To increase adoption of information sharing systems that will enhance agriculture, food and seafood traceability among value chain partners
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Sector organisations or Value chain partners of three or more agriculture, food or seafood businesses connected along a supply chain producing and delivering agriculture or seafood products to producers (see documentation for complete list)

What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Consultant services for project management, planning and development
	• Research and pilot of testing solutions
	• Associated costs for developing and maintaining information sharing networks:
	  ○ Information technology infrastructure
	  ○ Software development and customization
	• First time training costs associated with new equipment or procedures related to the project
	• First time costs related to traceability implementation
	• Costs associated with mock recall
	• In-kind activities directly related to the project
	• Other activities as deemed eligible by the Province

Application timelines	Application - April 4 to29, 2022
Funding amount	70% of project costs to a maximum of $75,000 for each application Eligible in-kind contributions can be applied to 30% of project costs maximum
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Implementation - June to December 31, 2022
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC)
Program Address	https://bctraceability.ca/programs#aee17d75-214f-4c3f-9545-d27cf234f819

Program	B.C. Livestock Tag Reader Rebate
Purpose	To enable implementation of livestock tag readers, reader installation, related software, and related equipment training
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	B.C. livestock operators, including Ranchers, Abbatoirs, and 4-H Districts who: • Own, sell, feed, house, or care for cattle, hogs, sheep, bison, cervids, and/or goats in BC • Materials, equipment, and/or services must be directly related to facilitation of livestock traceability activities • Applicants must be registered in the BC Premises ID Program
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Livestock tag readers (hand-held or panel readers) • Reader installation • Related software • Related equipment training
Application timelines	Applications appear to be open until funding end of the program OR funding is exhausted
Funding amount	70% of eligible costs to a maximum of $3,500 per applicant for all eligible items
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Application follows purchase of appropriate goods and services. Program ends Jan 31, 2023 and is subject to limits on available funding – no way to determine if still available prior to purchase
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
Program Address	https://bctraceability.ca/livestock-tag-reader

Insurance and Income Protection Programs

Program	2021 Flood Recovery Program for Food Security
Purpose	To help offset costs of returning to production for those producers with livestock and crops impacted by 2021 major flood events. Limited to Designated Areas
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	Agricultural producers impacted by the provincial state of emergency for flooding in 2021 who have applied to the program and: - Are a taxable entity (eg individual, corporation, or trust), limited partnership, commune, co-operative, or First Nation Band - Has their main farmstead in BC and files farm income tax - Owned or leased crop production land or Eligible Livestock within the Designated Area as of Nov 14, 2021, and, if applying for losses to bees must be registered under the Animal Health act with a valid beekeeper producer number - Is not a research station or government funded agency or institution
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Financial assistance for costs related to the following (with restrictions): - Flooding clean up - Repair of uninsurable farm structures or production equipment - Rental of alternative facility or pasture - Extraordinary transportation costs - Lost feed for breeding livestock - Feeding due to market delay - Veterinary costs - Uninsurable breeding livestock mortality - Perennial crops and cropland - Hives and extraordinary bee mortality -
Application timelines	- Application deadline is June 21, 2022. Contact expected within 2 weeks of application
Funding amount	- Varies significantly with eligible activities
Application assistance	Yes, through AFF Business Risk Management staff
Project timelines	General Application deadline – June 1, 2022. Many Loss Schedule payments must have been made and claimed prior to June 1, 2022. See Schedule A for exceptions Specific deadlines for fundable activities vary widely. See Schedule A for details
Funding	Participants are reimbursed for eligible costs already expended.
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/flood-recovery

Program	2021 Wildfire and Drought AgriRecovery Initiative
Purpose	To provide assistance in offsetting costs required to return to agricultural production after extreme wildfire or drought conditions.
Funder	60% Government of Canada, 40% BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	BC agricultural producers (including indigenous governments) that were impacted by fire and drought in 2021. Restricted to a designated area.
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	There are several areas of eligible expenses. Each area has a funding formula and maximum funding associated with it. Examples of eligible areas of expense include: • Feed assistance • Irrigation system repair • Pregnancy checking • Fire clean-up • Private fencing
Application timelines	Deadline: January 31. 2022
Funding amount	Variable depending on area of impact and assets damaged
Application assistance	Yes – Business Risk Management Branch staff
Project timelines	Variable
Funding	Reimbursement is based on documented expenses
Program Address	ww2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/2021-wildfire-and-drought-agrirecovery-initiative

Program	Agristability
Purpose	A business risk management tool that supports participants against large declines in an agricultural producer's net farming income. The AgriStability program is based on the income and activities of individual farms.
Funder	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Primary agricultural producers with reported farming income (or loss), a minimum of 6 months consecutive farming activity, and completion of 1 production cycle
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Farming income insurance program.
Application timelines	Deadline by April 30 of the program year or 30 days following the request of New Participant forms
Funding amount	Depends on determined program benefits . Payments are made if a producer's current year earnings margin falls more than 30% below their reference margin
Application assistance	Yes
Project timelines	2021 Late participation option allows producers to register for 2021 year up to Dec 31, 2021
Funding	Interim payments are now increased to 75% of estimated final payment
Delivery Agency	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/agriculture-income-protection-agristability

Program	Agriculture Wildlife Program
Purpose	To assist grain, forage and livestock producers experiencing crop and livestock loss due to wildlife
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	BC Agricultural producers with BC Assessment Farm Status and proof of private land ownership and/or lease confirmation. Participants in Production Insurance program are automatically enrolled, but it is not required.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Compensation may be limited to producers following best management practices in crop loss protection. Losses caused by specific wildlife are included. Also includes wildlife damage to standing forage or grain and separation of excreta.
Application timelines	Unclear
Funding amount	Variable
Application assistance	Yes – Ministry staff
Project timelines	
Funding	
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/crop-loss-damage-due-to-wildlife

Program	Production Insurance
Purpose	To provide an affordable insurance program that supports agricultural producers to manage the risk of crop losses caused by weather perils such as hail, frost, excessive rain, fire, flooding, drought, and the effects of wildlife.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Commercial producers of included berry, flower bulb, forage, grain, grape, tree fruit, and vegetable crops.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	This program provides premium-based insurance coverage for loss of insured crops due to weather or wildlife damage.
Application timelines	Varies by crop insured
Funding amount	Varies by crop insured
Application assistance	Yes
Project timelines	Application deadlines vary
Funding	Participant files a Notice of Loss. Confirmation letter should be sent within 2 weeks, followed by an Adjustor site inspection. Payment within 30 days of loss confirmation.
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/redirect-production-insurance

Program	Livestock Price Insurance
Purpose	To enable livestock producers to purchase government supported price-protection against an unexpected drop in prices over a defined period of time
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	Commercial cattle or hog producers
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	The program provides insurance coverage against unexpected drops in livestock market prices
Application timelines	Varies by animal and class
Funding amount	Varies by individual producer coverage and loss
Application assistance	May be available
Project timelines	Varies by animal and class
Funding	Settlement is based on producer claims or completes automatically at the end of the coverage window
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	• https://lpi.ca/ • https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/livestock-price-insurance

Program	AgriInvest
Purpose	To provide a self-managed savings account that helps farmers manage small income declines and provides support for investments to mitigate risks or improve market income
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	General eligibility for anyone who earns income from the primary production of eligible agricultural commodities and: • farms in Canada • files an income tax return reporting farming income or loss to the CRA by the deadline for the program year • Files an AgriInvest form reporting sales and purchases of allowable commodities by the final deadline of the program year
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Investment in a savings account, up to 100% of allowable net sales (based on annual sales), with 1% of allowable net sales matched by government contribution. Fund also earns interest
Application timelines	Without penalty – Sept 30, 2022 for 2021 year With penalty – Dec 31, 2022 for 2021 year. Penalty is reduction of maximum matchable deposit by 5% for each month or partial month past the initial deadline
Funding amount	1% of allowable net sales contributed. Program funding also supports administration
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	See application timelines above
Funding	Matching amount deposited in savings. For withdrawals, matching amounts and interest are withdrawn first and considered taxable income. Producer contributions are not taxable (already taxed)
Delivery Agency	Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Program Address	• https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/agriculture-insurance-and-income-protection-programs/agriinvest • https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agriinvest

Program	B.C. Land Matching Program
Purpose	Provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land.
Funder	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	• Farmers seeking land to start or expand their agricultural business • Landholders looking for someone to farm their land • Farmers and farmland holders who matched independently and want support to develop agreements
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Supported process - Land matcher sets up meetings between landseekers and landholders, facilitates the development of an agreement if there is a match
Application timelines	Ongoing
Funding amount	None – process support
Application assistance	Yes – process is facilitated by agency staff
Project timelines	Ongoing
Funding	Supported program delivery with funded program delivery agency
Delivery Agency	Young Agrarians
Program address	https://youngagrarians.org/tools/land/bc-land-matching-program/

Program	B.C. Lean for Food Processors Program
Purpose	Supports specialized business skill development to enable processors to make more informed decisions, optimize operating procedures, improve production capacity, labour productivity and strengthen their business.
Funder	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries through FeedBC program
Who can apply?	B.C. food processors with 51% or more of the direct cost of producing the final product originating in B.C. that reported more than $30,000 in annual gross revenues the previous year
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Research and Development • Inventory Management • Quality Assurance Procedure • Analysis of Production Process • Marketing Activities • Staff Training • Food Safety Protocols • Re-tooling Procedures
Application timelines	Applications closed – funding for 2022 program year is budget dependent
Funding amount	Up to $7,000 in services from a Qualified Business Consultant.
Application assistance	Applications are completed with support from the Qualified Business Consultant. Successful applicants are required to pay $1,500 upfront to the Qualified Business Consultant.
Project timelines	
Funding	Cost-shared funding flows from Ministry to Qualified Business Consultant
Delivery Agency	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/bc-lean-for-food-processors-program

Program	EMBC Wildfire 2021 Emergency Feed Program
Purpose	To provide feed for commercial livestock businesses where due to wildfire and related activities: • They could not access their normal forage or feed supply • They were required to use forage or feed resources meant for later in the annual cycle to keep livestock safe
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Emergency Management BC
Who can apply?	• Commercial livestock-based farm businesses that meet requirements listed above. • Possibly First Nations led operations that provide food to a community
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	Successful applicants provided with up to 14 days of emergency feed support
Application timelines	Emergency response program
Funding amount	Up to 14 days livestock feed provided
Application assistance	Yes. Application through local Emergency Operation Centre
Project timelines	During 2021 wildfire emergency response
Funding	Provision of up to 14 days emergency livestock feed
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/embc-wildfire-2021-emergency-feed-program

Program	Hazelnut Renewal Program
Purpose	Provides funding to remove infected trees to mitigate the spread of Eastern Filbert Blight and to incentivize the planting of new disease-resistant hazelnut trees in British Columbia
Funder	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	New or existing hazelnut growers in BC that are also the owner or lessee of the land being planted
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Removal of up to 10 acres of EFB infected hazelnut trees • Planting of between 1 and 20 acres of approved hazelnut varieties (Maximum of 2690 trees planted)
Application timelines	Applications accepted Feb 2 to Mar 28, 2022
Funding amount	• New hazelnut plantings - $5.00 per tree to a maximum of $13,450 • Removal of EFB infected trees – up to 10 acres at a maximum of $1,800/acre
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	• New plantings – must be planted between March 2022 and June 1, 2022 • Removal of EFB infected trees- must be between March 2022 and June 30, 2022
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities as well as the outcome of a field inspection
Delivery Agency	BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/hazelnut-renewal-program

Program	Buy BC Partnership Program
Purpose	To build and maintain BUY BC brand recognition and generate awareness and demand for local food and beverage products by: • enabling industry to undertake specific Buy BC marketing initiatives • ensuring consumers can easily identify BC agri-food and seafood products at the point of sale There are two portions of this program: • Buy BC logo license • Cost-shared funding for activities under Buy BC program
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Who can apply?	• Primary agriculture and seafood producers
	• Agriculture, food and beverage, and seafood processors or co-ops
	• Industry associations, boards and councils
	• Agriculture fairs and farmers' markets
	• Non-profit social enterprises
	• Agriculture, food and beverage, and seafood retailers, wholesalers, or distributors, food hubs and processing facilities (eligible for participation in Buy BC logo license only, not cost-shared funding)
	To participate in cost-shared funding, applicants must:
	• Be approved to a Buy BC logo license
	• Provide a minimum of overall project budget in cash as follows:
	  ○ 50% for producers, processors, co-ops, ag fairs and markets
	  ○ 30% for industry associations, boards, or councils
	• Revenue of >$30k annually over last 2 years (producers, processors, co-ops)
	• Be registered through the IAF portal and approved foy Buy BC cost-share

What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Labelling or packaging products with a Buy BC logo • Marketing collateral and promotional materials • Tradeshows/Fairs • In-store Demos/Promos • Print/Broadcast ads • Online ads/Social media
Application timelines	Applications for a Buy BC logo license are ongoing, but the deadline to allow consideration for 2022-23 funding cycle was Nov 9, 2021. Cost-shared applications were open Oct 26 – Nov 18, 2021 for 2022-23 funding cycle.

Funding amount	There is an overall funding cap for each applicant (unclear), as well as the following maximum funding per applicant by activity:
	• Staff wages
	  ○ $2,000 for producers/processors/co-op applicants
	  ○ $10,000 for associations
	• Marketing collateral and promotional materials - $5,000
	• Product labelling/packaging - $20,000
	• Online advertising costs - $15,000

Application assistance	Yes- through IAF program staff

Project timelines	Start on or after April 1, 2022. Completion by Feb 24, 2023 or as detailed in funding contract
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program address	https://iafbc.ca/buy-bc/ https://buybc.gov.bc.ca/

Program	Raspberry Replant Program
Purpose	Intended to increase the competitiveness of the B.C. raspberry industry in local and global markets
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	• New or existing raspberry growrs • Owner or lessee of land to be planted • If previously a producer, must be a member in good standing with the Raspberry Industry Development Council • Applicant or representative must plan to be enrolled in an industry-recognized food safety program in 2023 or be the holder of an equivalent valid food safety certificate
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	• Planting of between 1 and 10 acres of raspberry varieties suitable for Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) or fresh markets.
Application timelines	Oct 12, 2021 to Jan 5, 2022 for Raspberry fields to be created in Spring 2022
Funding amount	• $1.25 per plant, based on planting density, to a maximum of $2,750 per acre (at 2,200 plants per acre). Maximum funding of up to $27,500 for 10 acres.
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Must be planted in Spring 2022. Field inspections take place starting in July.
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities, as well as the outcome of a field inspection
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/raspberry-replant-program

Program	Bee BC
Purpose	To support small scale regional/community-based projects to research, explore, field-test and share information about best management practices associated with bee health.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	• Regional / community beekeeping associations or groups • Beekeepers with permitted hives • Groups of beekeepers with permitted hives • First Nations / Indigenous Peoples Organizations.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Research, exploration, field-testing, implementation and sharing of best practices and techniques to promote healthy bee colonies and the implementation of best management practices related to bee disease monitoring, response and treatment.
Application timelines	January 11, 2021 – February 12, 2022
Funding amount	Up to $5,000 per project
Application assistance	n/a
Project timelines	February – Project application development and application deadline for projects starting in April February/March – Project assessment and contracting April to February – Project implementation
Funding	Funding was reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agent	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program Address	https://iafbc.ca/bee-bc/

Program	Small Farm Business Acceleration Pilot Program
Purpose	Supports cost-shared purchasing of commercial farm infrastructure and equipment needed to accelerate the revenue growth of farm businesses.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	• Commercial farm businesses whose primary purpose is the production and sale of agricultural products intended for sale • Reported gross revenue of less than $60,000 in the previous 2 years (2018 and 2019) • Owners must reside in BC • Must have either received a statement of completion or implementation from the EFP or commit to apply and try to complete an EFP within 1 year of completing this program • Must not have received funding from BMP or OFFSP in last 5 years or plan to apply in 2020/21
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	Purchase of equipment and/or construction or expansion of physical structures. Funding must exclusively be used to generate in come from commercial agricultural production which includes income from sales of farm commodities including production insurance, crop and livestock sales, and value-added farm products.
Application timelines	• Oct 30 -Dec 7, 2020: development of application and associated documentation • Dec 7 – 15, 2020: submit application including supporting documentation
Funding amount	Up to $17,500 in cost-shared funding: • Project costs up to $10,000 are supported at 75% • Project costs between $10,000 and $30,000 are supported at 50% Participant contributions can be cash or in-kind.
Application assistance	Specifically offered to Indigenous applicants
Project timelines	• By Jan. 21, 2021: Receive decision and confirm cost-shared funding project • Jan 16-Mar 31, 2021: Complete cost-shared funding project and submit receipts for reimbursement
Funding	Participants are reimbursed upon completion of the project and submission of receipts
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/small-business-acceleration-pilot-program

Program	Agritech Ramp-Up Pilot Program
Purpose	To support the growth of B.C.'s agritech sector through provision of a cohort-based business support program
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	Organizations incorporated in Canada, with an office in B.C. and at least one full-time worker who is a resident of B.C., with technologies or innovations within three agrifood business areas: • Primary production with a technology or innovative approach • Innovative food products and processes • Agricultural technology entrepreneurs Other factors include strategic alignment with Government of B.C. priorities, readiness to scale product to market, management capacity, and Customer Readiness Level.
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Program is a two-month training delivered in three phases: 1. Three-day market validation training 2. Specialized coaching, mentoring and networking for successful participants 3. Top two organisations in each cohort receive a $25,000 Business Development grant and may be offered a place in SFU's Agritech Sandbox program
Application timelines	Cohort 1: November 30, 2021 Cohort 2: apply from March 15-April 15, 2022
Funding amount	Program is provided with a requirement to pay a $500 registration fee for successful applicants
Application assistance	No. Two-step application process 1. Eligibility screening 2. Ramp-Up Application Form
Project timelines	Cohort 1 – January 6-May 31, 2022 Cohort 2 – April 28-September 30, 2022
Funding	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program Address	• https://agritechrampup.ca/ • https://iafbc.ca/agritech-ramp-up-program/

Program	Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative
Purpose	To help BC-based abattoirs and meat processors directly improve the accessibility and affordability of animal tissue waste disposal.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Canadian Agricultural Partnership)
Who can apply?	New applicants must meet one of the following: • Licensed abattoirs located in BC (includes Federal A, B, D and E classes) • Meat processors located in BC that handle Specified Risk Materials (SRM) • Not-for-profit organizations representing the abattoir/livestock sectors • First Nations / Indigenous Peoples' Organizations with direct connections to abattoirs /meat processors
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Projects need to demonstrate how they will directly improve the accessibility and affordability of animal tissue waste disposal for the applicant. Project activities may be any one or combination of the following: • Composting equipment/systems for on-farm deadstock or livestock waste tissue (E.g. windrow systems, in-vessel systems or sealed containers) • Compost turners, aeration tools, and other equipment for managing and monitoring compost systems (temperature, organic matter, moisture) • Cold storage systems specifically for livestock waste tissue • Transportation equipment specifically for livestock waste tissue • Infrastructure upgrades directly related to livestock waste tissue disposal systems (E.g. concrete paved floors, covered area for existing facility to prevent run-off and manage odors, increased ventilation, drainage control systems) • Feasibility studies / needs assessments for tissue waste disposal (for not-for-profit organizations only)
Application timelines	Applications closed
Funding amount	Up to $40,000 per applicant
Application assistance	Unclear
Project timelines	All funded projects completed by September 30, 2021
Funding	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Delivery Agency	Investment Agriculture Foundation
Program Address	https://iafbc.ca/livestock-waste-tissue-initiative

Program	Seasonal Domestic Farm Worker Covid-19 Safety: Financial Relief Program
Purpose	Cost-shared initiative that provides financial relief to farmers who are currently employing and/or have employed seasonal Domestic Farm Workers (DFWs) in 2021. Total project budget of $50,000
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Who can apply?	B.C. primary agricultural producers producing crops or animal products intended for sale that employed seasonal Domestic Farm Workers between April 1 and October 31, 2021
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	on-farm improvements that contributed to the implementation of COVID-19 safety measures for seasonal DFWs. Examples include bathrooms, washing and bathing facilities, improved infrastructure, and cleaning products aimed at reducing risk related to COVID-19
Application timelines	Purchases between April 1, 2021 and October 31, 2021 are eligible
Funding amount	70% of eligible costs to a maximum of $2,000 per farm business
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Deadline for application: October 31, 2021 or at allocation of maximum program budget.
Funding	Participants are reimbursed for receipted costs, including retroactive purchases that meet eligibility criteria
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/programs/domestic-farm-workers-ppe-support-program/seasonal_dfw_covid-19_safety_program_guide.pdf

Program	B.C. Farm Worker Safe Isolation Program
Purpose	To reimburse employer costs related to safe voluntary isolation of farm workers in B.C.
Funder	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, with funds from the Public Health Agency of Canada
Who can apply?	B.C. primary producers who is employing and housing individuals required to isolate based on Public Health Orders or direction received from regional Health Authority
What can be purchased? (Eligible activities)	Costs directly related to isolation, including: • Commercial Accommodation • Food • Laundry • Toiletries, PPE, etc.
Application timelines	Expenses between April 1, 2021 and Mar 31, 2022 are eligible. Applications due by Jan 7, 2022 for expenses up to Nov 30, 2021. After that, exp[enses must be submitted within 30 days of the isolation period ending. Last day to submit a claim is April 30, 2022
Funding amount	Maximum $3,000 per isolating worker
Application assistance	No
Project timelines	Retroactive reimbursement program
Funding	Funding is reimbursed based on receipted and reported activities.
Delivery Agency	B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Program Address	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/bc-farm-worker-safe-isolation-program

Program	Local Government Partnership Program
Funder	Province of B.C. Government of Canada
Purpose	Help local governments develop, update and implement agricultural planning tools
Who can apply?	• Regional, Municipal, First Nation, or other local government with active Agricultural Advisory Committee, with adequate staffing and political support in place for project, and able to fund at least 50% of cash costs • Not for profit agricultural association
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	• Pre-planning: inventory, survey of agri-businesses and opportunities, water, soil or nutrient need assessments, evaluation of existing Agricultural Area Plans (AAP) • Planning: develop or update Agricultural Area Plan, review how regulations affect agricultural planning • AAP Implementation: AAP operational plan, activity implementation, evaluation, update regulatory OCPs) • Ineligible expenses include funding for staff positions to support project; admin fees beyond 10%, capital expenditures;
Application timelines	• Application open one month (April – May; Sept – Oct) • Funding decisions two months after deadline
Funding amount	Up to $40,000 in cost-shared funding
Application assistance	Investment Agriculture Foundation staff team
Project timelines	Completed 1 to 1.5 years after funding confirmation
Funding	25% upon signing of Contribution Agreement 50% upon approval of project report halfway through project 25% upon approval of final report
Program Address	https://iafbc.ca/local-government-partnership-program/

Program	Farmland Advantage
Funder	• Agri-Foods Future Fund (Province of B.C. and Government of Canada) • Healthy Watersheds Initiative (Province of B.C. funding Real Estate Foundation and Watersheds BC) • Government of Canada – Department of Environment and Climate Change • Township of Langley
Purpose	The program targets high risk and high opportunity areas in BC based on pre-determined selection criteria. Once these areas have been selected, Farmland Advantage will contact the farmers whose land falls within those boundaries and gauge their interest in participating in the program.
Who can apply?	n/a
What can be purchased? (Eligible expenses)	All on-farm activities carried out under Farmland Advantage are agreed upon in advance by the landowner/steward and the Farmland Advantage advisor. Activities must directly support the ecosystem services the program targets and may include: • Tree & shrub planting • Riparian protection infrastructure (i.e. fencing or other barriers) • Weed and/or competitive vegetation management • Thinning trees or shrubs • Seeding • Targeted grazing • Managed fire
Application timelines	n/a
Funding amount	Average $3000 per site
Application assistance	n/a
Project timelines	n/a
Funding	n/a
Program Address	https://farmlandadvantage.ca/

Discontinued programs with live websites

Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Program (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/greenhouse-carbon-tax-relief-grant) – Last deadline May 10, 2021

Food Business Refresh Program (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/food-business-refresh-program) – last intake was fall 2020

BC Tree Fruit Replant Program (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/treefruit-replant) – Program removed from BCFGA page

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