

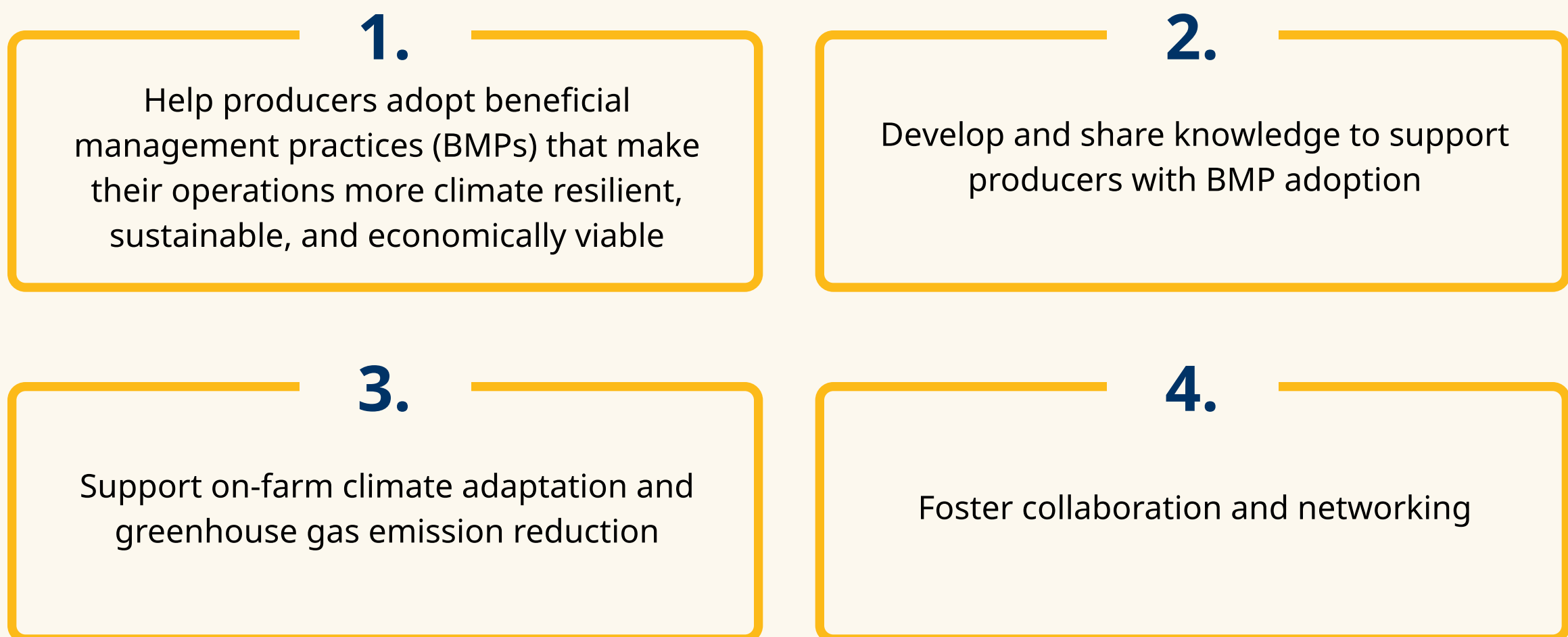
REGIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM

**Program information last updated October 31, 2023*

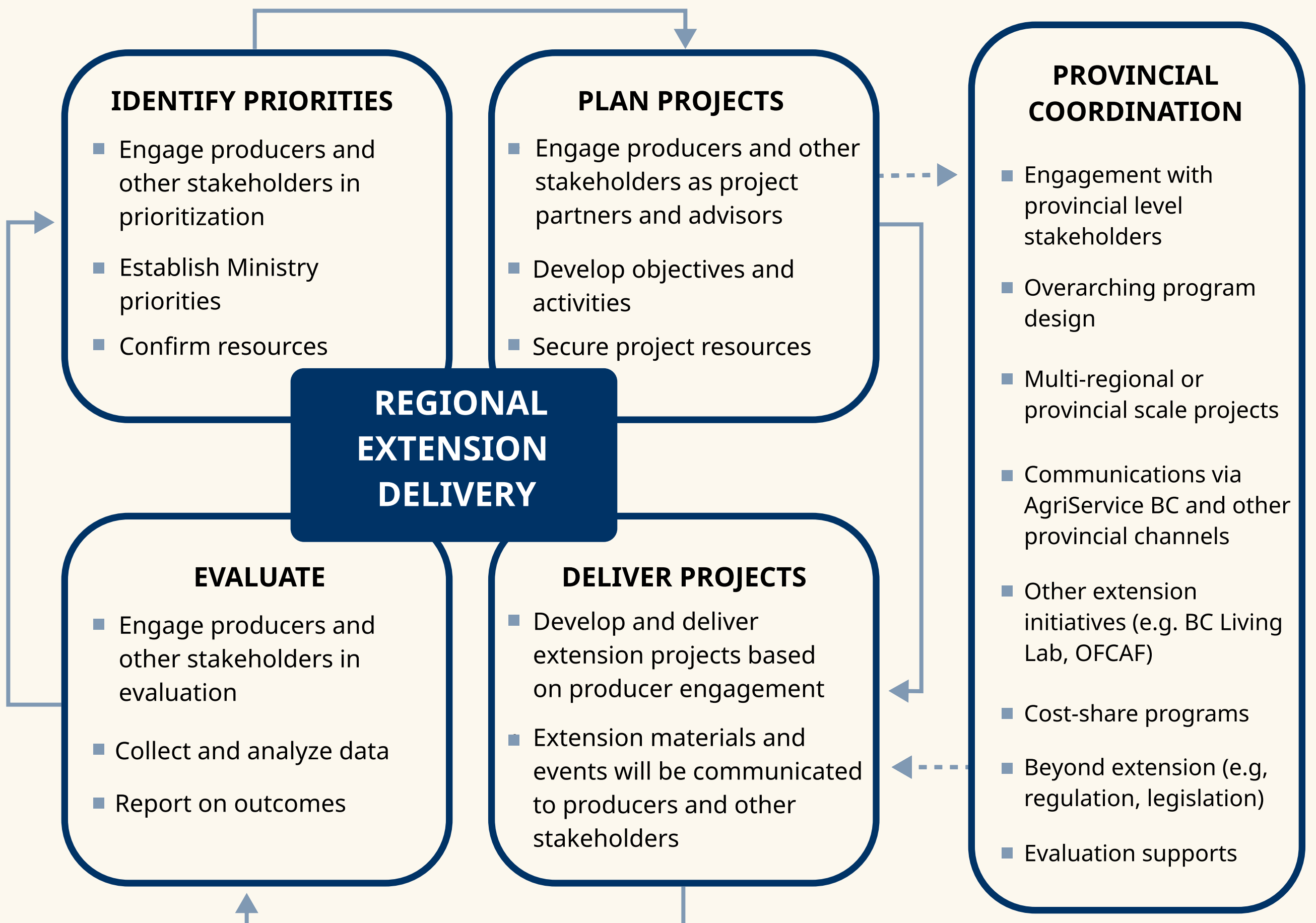
WHAT IS THE REGIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM?

A 5 year producer-focused extension program led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

THE PROGRAM WILL:



HOW DOES IT WORK?



WHAT PROGRAMS WILL BE DELIVERED?

- The goal is to design projects that account for the nuanced challenges and goals of producers at the regional level.
- Regionally identified and developed solutions may have a higher likelihood of uptake and success.

- The focus for 2023/24 is environment and climate extension.
- The intention is to leverage this model to deliver extension for other topics (eg production, innovation, business planning, labour, food processing, etc).

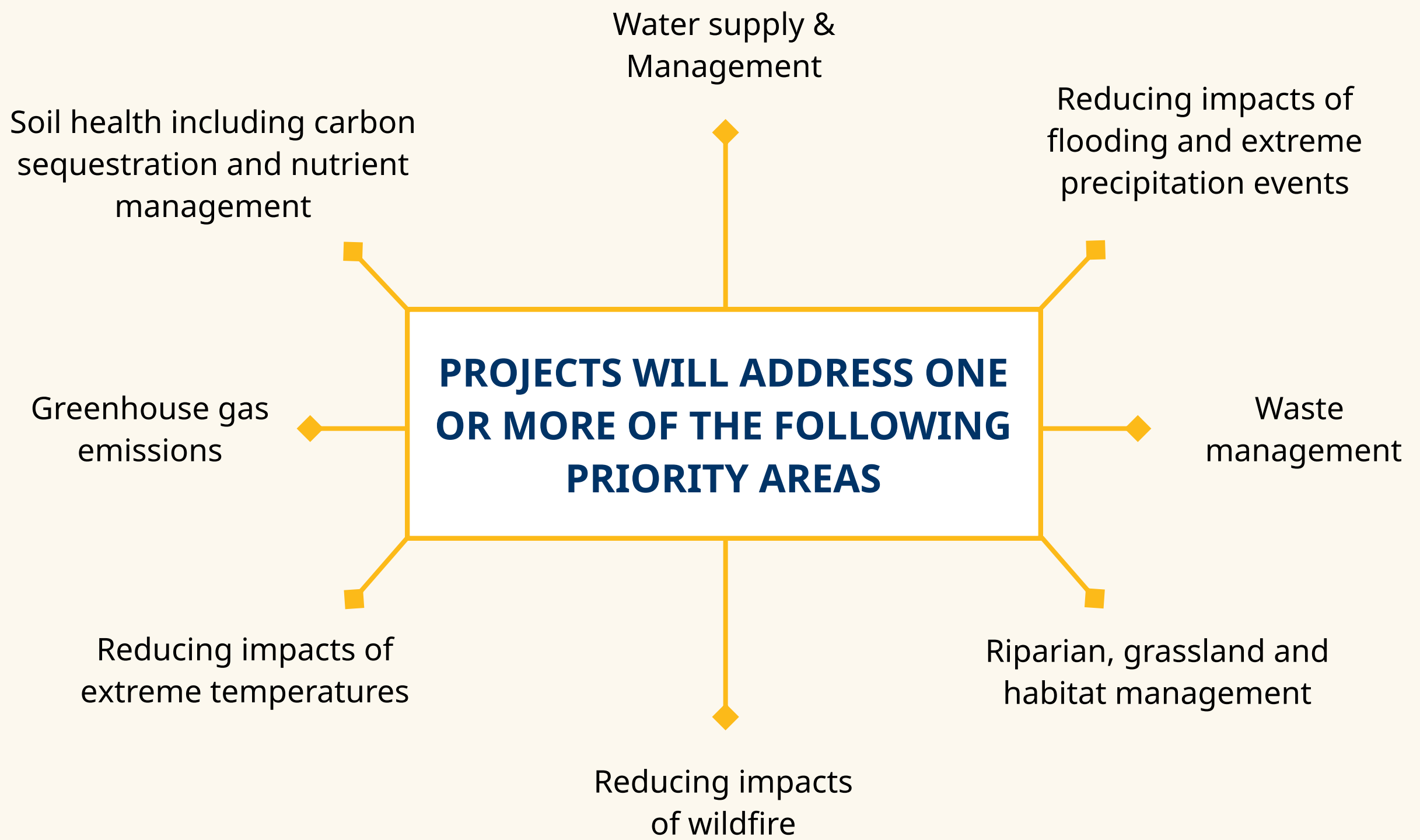
WHY A REGIONAL APPROACH MATTERS FOR CLIMATE PROGRAMMING

- The overarching objective of the Regional Extension Program is to increase on-farm adoption of beneficial management practices (BMPs) that support producers in making their operations more climate resilient, sustainable, and economically viable.

REGIONAL EXTENSION PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- For 2023/24 - The 16 projects underway have received \$1M with \$500K remaining for additional work to be started in the coming months.
- For 2024/25 - \$1.5M in program funding.
- Funding sources – CleanBC, S-CAP.

PROGRAM FUNDING



EXTENSION REGIONS



THE TYPES OF PROJECTS THAT WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM INCLUDE

- On-farm demonstrations and field days
- Relationship-building (e.g. farmer-to-farmer networks)
- Communications and digital resources (e.g. factsheets)
- Development of decision-aid tools
- Knowledge transfer events (e.g. workshops, webinars)
- Knowledge development (e.g. literature reviews, gap analyses, feasibility studies, modelling)

2023/24 PROJECTS

The program funds activities such as, data sharing, on-farm demonstrations, workshops and webinars that highlight best practices and the latest research and technologies to support sustainable agriculture.

There are
16 projects
underway with more
starting in the coming
months

Provincial Drought Workshops

(\$75,000)

Provide livestock drought workshops in drought-affected regions in B.C. to give farmers the information they need so they can be better prepared and implement new strategies and best management practices that help them adapt to the impacts of climate change

Aspen Films Inc. (\$95,000)

Work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to create 12 to 15 AgriService BC videos on the Regional Extension Programs projects.

Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. (\$50,000)

Work with producers and hold field days in the North Okanagan, Lower Mainland and on Vancouver Island to help farmers adopt best management practices that will reduce phosphorus loss and improve soil health on farms

BC Cattlemens' Association (\$260,000)

Help farmers and ranchers adopt targeted grazing practices, and test and monitor grazing best management practices on farms in the Cariboo, Kootenays, Okanagan and Thompson-Nicola regions so farmers can be better prepared for wildfires

BC Cattlemens' Association (\$36,450)

Create materials to develop a silvopasture training workshop and hold field days for farmers and ranchers in the Thompson-North Okanagan so they can learn about and apply new and best management practices that improve water quality and land-use planning

BC Cattlemens' Association (\$200,000)

Test and demonstrate the use of the Landscape and Range Resiliency Planning Tool, a climate-change modelling and surface water risk-assessment tool, in the Bulkley Nechako, Cariboo and Kootenay regions to help farmers better prepare for impacts of climate change

BC Potato & Vegetable

Growers' Association (\$47,000)

Evaluate nutrient and water management for growing potatoes in the Fraser Valley using combinations of irrigation and fertilizer treatments, and develop a report with best management practices for mitigating heat and drought to share with farmers during field days so they can better adapt growing techniques to the changing climate

David E. Tattam

(contractor) (\$10,000)

Support producers in the Koksilah River watershed on Vancouver Island with an irrigation-scheduling project to help them be better prepared for drought conditions from the impacts of climate change

Delta Farmers'

Institute (\$80,500)

Expand the salinity-monitoring network (measures the salt in the water supply) in Delta, develop a mobile app for producers to access the information from the network and provide a field day to help farmers with irrigation scheduling

E.S. Croconsult Ltd. (\$30,000)

Support on-farm demonstration research and field days for berry and vegetable growers to promote regenerative agriculture practices that increase resilience to climate change and support economic viability

E.S. Croconsult Ltd. (\$3,660)

Deliver bi-weekly integrated pest-management newsletters for potato growers in B.C. to help with key pest issues and provide recommendations during the growing season to help with crop production

Silvopasture Workshop(\$56,000)

Test and create a self-guided online learning "silvopasture" workshop for farmers and ranchers so they can learn about and apply new and best management practices that improve water quality and land-use planning

Irrigation Industry

Association of BC (\$29,740)

Provide field days and workshops for water management and training across B.C. for farmers and ranchers to be better prepared for drought conditions, and train provincial government employees on agricultural water management so they can support agricultural producers

Reid Lake Farmers'

Institute (\$5,000)

Look at pasture-renovation techniques that will help the soil in aged pastures in the region so farmers can use the land

Sustainable Winegrowing BC (\$3,400):

Deliver four cover-crop knowledge transfer field days in 2023 on the different growth stages of vineyards and how they impact cover-crop management to support farmers in the Okanagan.

Vancouver Island Cattlemens' Association (\$56,120)

Help manage and mitigate the impacts of climate change by demonstrating suitable crops for the region that will help farmers and ranchers improve crop-climate resilience, increase yield and reduce the use of fertilizer for forage and feed production on Vancouver Island.