

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Organic Industry Development Program GUIDELINES



Canada

## 4.3 ORGANIC INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Organic Industry Development Program** is designed to support the growth, competitiveness, and capacity-building of the organic agriculture sector in Prince Edward Island. By providing strategic assistance, the program aims to foster innovation, sustainability, and economic resilience within the sector. It supports projects that enhance the sector's ability to adapt to emerging challenges, improve productivity, and increase market access. This initiative encourages collaboration among stakeholders, promotes knowledge transfer, and helps position the organic sector for long-term success, ensuring its contribution to both regional and national economic development.

This program is comprised of four sub-programs:

- **4.3.1 Increasing Market Competitiveness Sub-Program**
- **4.3.2 Specialized Equipment Sub-Program**
- **4.3.3 Certified Land Conversion Sub-Program**
- **4.3.4 Implementation of Strategic Initiatives Sub-Program**

**NOTE: Leasing equipment (for all sub-programs)**

- If equipment is planned to be leased, rather than purchased, additional funding guidelines will apply. Please consult with the Program Advisor before submitting an application.

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### 4.3.1 INCREASING MARKET COMPETITIVENESS SUB-PROGRAM

The ***Increasing Market Competitiveness Sub-Program*** will assist producers and processors in capturing a larger share of the certified organic market, thereby increasing their profitability.

## SUB-GUIDELINES

### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups;
- Agricultural producers;
- Small to medium-sized agribusinesses;
- Agriprocessors; and
- Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations.

#### NOTE:

- Recipients must have current organic certification or have applied for an organic certification and have participated in an organic certification inspection.

### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Technology to meet the certified organic market requirements and to improve efficiency; and
- Modification of a facility to meet certified organic requirements.
- Activities to develop new organic products or serve new organic markets.
- Participation in trade shows or organic products exposition.

### Ineligible Expenses/Activities

- In-kind contributions (including wages and labour);
- Purchase of breeding stock and/or seed;
- Construction of new infrastructure or crop storages;
- Non-arms-length transactions;
- Feasibility studies, market surveys, and business plans;
- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and ongoing operating and maintenance activities;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the sector;
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood);
- Activities that provide tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and enforcement of regulations.

### Funding

- 50% of eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$40,000 per year for eligible program expenses.

#### NOTE:

- There is a maximum of \$100,000 available for eligible recipients from all Organic Industry Development Sub-Programs over the life of the Sustainable CAP Framework Agreement (2023-2028).

## 4.3.2 SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT SUB-PROGRAM

The **Specialized Equipment Sub-Program** will support organic producers in purchasing equipment to improve pest management and soil fertility practices. This will enhance agronomic outcomes, such as healthier crops and improved soil health, while reducing the environmental impact of farming. By promoting sustainable practices, the program helps increase farm efficiency and long-term ecological resilience.

### SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups; and
- Agricultural producers.

#### NOTE:

- Recipients must have current organic certification or have applied to an organic certification body and have participated in an organic certification inspection.

#### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Portable grain cleaners and dryers;
- Flame weeders;
- Mechanical weeders and inter-row cultivators;
- Frost and green manure seeders;
- Pasture renovators;
- Cover crop technology; and
- Other specialized equipment.

#### NOTE:

- Equipment and/or technologies not listed will be reviewed and evaluated for eligibility under the Specialized Equipment Sub-Program.

#### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and ongoing operating and maintenance activities;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the Sector;
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood);
- Activities that provide tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and enforcement of regulations.

#### Funding

- 50% of eligible expenses up to \$15,000 per project.

#### NOTE:

- There is a maximum of \$100,000 available for eligible recipients from all Organic Industry Development Sub-Programs over the life of the Sustainable CAP Framework Agreement (2023-2028).

### 4.3.3 CERTIFIED LAND CONVERSION SUB-PROGRAM

The **Certified Organic Land Conversion Sub-Program** will support producers in mitigating risks associated with converting conventional farmland to certified organic farmland.

## SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups; and
- Agricultural producers.

### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Land in the first year of full organic conversion.

### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Land which is not in the first year of full organic conversion.
- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and ongoing operating and maintenance activities;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the Sector;
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood);
- Activities which provide tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and enforcement of regulations.

### Funding

- Perennial horticultural crops - \$2000/acre to a maximum of \$10,000 per year
- Annual vegetable crops - \$1000/acre to a maximum of \$10,000 per year;
- Greenhouse crops - \$0.50/m<sup>2</sup> to a maximum of \$10,000 per year;
- Cereals, oilseeds pulses and legume based perennial forage crops (planted in year of application) - \$60/acre to a maximum of \$10,000 per year; and
- Permanent pasture \$30/acre to a maximum of \$10,000/year.

### NOTE:

- There is a maximum of \$100,000 available for eligible recipients from all Organic Industry Development Sub-Programs over the life of the Sustainable CAP Framework Agreement (2023-2028).



#### 4.3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES SUB-PROGRAM

The Implementation of Strategic Initiatives Sub-Program will support activities that empower organizations representing PEI organic stakeholders to develop and coordinate projects that enhance the sector's overall strategic capacity. The sub-program's objective is to foster initiatives that address key challenges and opportunities within the organic sector, promoting collaboration across the entire value chain. By supporting innovative projects that focus on improving productivity, sustainability, and market access, the program aims to strengthen the sector's ability to adapt to changing market demands, climate challenges, and evolving consumer preferences.

### SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups;
- PEI Certified Organic Producers Cooperative; and
- Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN).
- Other organizations deemed eligible by the program review committee.

#### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Activities which will increase the organic sector's strategic capacity;
- Activities which will assist the organic sector's ability to capture emerging opportunities and/or address sector challenges;
- Market development activities;
- Consulting fees;
- Salaries;
- Material and supplies; and
- Administrative and overhead costs (maximum of 10% of eligible costs).

#### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Capital equipment purchases;
- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and ongoing operating and maintenance activities;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the sector;
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing (except international marketing and traceability activities for fish and seafood);
- Activities which provide tax credits or rebates; and
- Development and enforcement of regulations.

#### Funding

- Funding will be cost shared between eligible recipients and the Department. The level of support and total contribution will be determined by the Organic Industry Development Program Review Committee.



## CLAIMS PROCESS

Recipients shall maintain an accurate record of expenditures incurred and shall submit, upon completion of the project, the following:

- a claim form summarizing expenditures;
- copies of all paid invoices with verification of payment;
- a report on the project and its results in terms of project objectives; and
- copies of material produced (or when applicable, photos of material funded).



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Approved projects must be completed within the timeframe outlined in the funding agreement;
- Recipients must meet the eligibility criteria and submit a complete application to the Department of Agriculture;
- Applications will be assessed on a ***first come-first serve basis for merit and impact***.
- If the project is not approved, all incurred costs are the responsibility of the recipient.
- Assistance will be available until funds are totally allocated within that year; and
- Projects may be funded below the maximum contribution rate upon assessment and availability of funding.

## HOW TO APPLY

Completed applications may be submitted to the attention of the Program Officer via regular mail or email.

### Email Applications:

Applications may be submitted via email to

[organic@gov.pe.ca](mailto:organic@gov.pe.ca)

Please include the program name in the subject line.

### Regular Mail Applications:

Applications may be submitted via regular mail at:

PEI Department of Agriculture

11 Kent Street

PO Box 2000

Charlottetown PE C1A 7N8

(902) 368-4880 (telephone)



## **PUBLIC TRUST**

Projects approved for funding under the Sustainable CAP which have demonstrable links to increasing public trust may be eligible for additional project funding.



## **REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

Projects that are assessed to demonstrate benefits and impacts to more than one Atlantic province may be eligible for funding on a regional basis.



## **EVALUATION AND CONTROL**

A complete evaluation of this program is planned to ensure that the objectives and results are achieved and to assess the relevance of its renewal. Program metrics are collected and reported on an on-going basis.



## **GUIDING PRINCIPLE**

Sustainable CAP programs are available to all Canadians who are eligible to participate in those programs. Wherever possible, the needs of under-represented groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, were considered during program development.