

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Perennial Crop Development Program GUIDELINES



Canada

## 1.3 PERENNIAL CROP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Perennial Crop Development Program** is designed to increase sustainability in PEI's agriculture sector. Perennial crops are often considered to have both substantial ecological and economic benefits compared to annual crop species. Perennial crops can increase carbon levels in the soil and reduce contamination of watercourses and wetlands through erosion control, water-use efficiency, and nutrient cycling efficiency.

The Program will support the implementation of perennial crop development through two sub-programs:

- **1.3.1 Perennial Crop Establishment Sub-Program**
- **1.3.2 Perennial Crop Efficiency Sub-Program**

#### NOTE: Support for Site Assessment and Development

- Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with
  - Appendix A: Site Assessment, Selection and Development for Perennial Crops Guide; and
  - Appendix B: Recommended Minimum Standards for Wind Resilient Trellis Design
- The appendices can be downloaded as PDFs from the Perennial Crop Development webpage.

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## 1.3.1 PERENNIAL CROP ESTABLISHMENT SUB-PROGRAM

The **Perennial Crop Establishment Sub-Program** will support high-value perennial crop production. Emphasis will be placed on establishment of new and expanding perennial crop enterprises.

### SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups;
- Agricultural producers;
- Small to medium-sized agri-businesses;
- Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations;
- Agricultural co-ops; and
- Others may be considered upon request.

#### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Establishment and expansion of perennial crops including but not limited to:
  - purchasing and installing plants;
  - wind resilient trellises (**see Appendix B: Recommended Minimum Standards for Wind Resilient Trellis Design**);
  - exclusion netting;
  - weed control barriers;
  - drip irrigation;
  - mulch; and
  - seed for orchard/vineyard ground cover, etc.
- Adoption and/or evaluation of perennial crop process improvements identified as leading-edge production technology to reduce costs, add value, improve efficiencies, improve product quality or increase market access.
- Costs associated with perennial crop establishment, except for those expenses listed in "Ineligible Expenses".

#### NOTE:

- Only new perennial crops and support systems or expansions installed in the current funding year will be eligible.

#### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Expenses related to forage/fodder crops, land clearing, and drainage;
- Land clearing and development activities for lowbush blueberry production;
- Meal expenses (including hospitality and hosting of events);
- In-kind services (including wages and labour);
- Overhead and/or administration costs;
- On-going business costs, including replacing perennial plants lost to disease, storm damage, winterkill (program is designed to support new perennial crop farms, and farm expansions – not maintenance), nor costs of herbicides, fertilizers, crop protectants;
- Expenses incurred prior to project application;
- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and on-going 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

- Up to 50% of eligible expenses to a maximum of \$20,000 per project; and
- If program demand exceeds available funding, the Department reserves the right to pro-rate funding.

### NOTE:

- The maximum funding per recipient is \$100,000 over the life of the Sustainable CAP Framework Agreement (2023-2028).

## 1.3.2 PERENNIAL CROP EFFICIENCY SUB-PROGRAM

The **Perennial Crop Efficiency Sub-Program** will support projects focused on technologies designed to improve efficiency, reduce costs, add value, improve production value and increase market access related to perennial crops.

## SUB-PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### Eligible Recipients

- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups;
- Agricultural producers;
- Small to medium-sized agri-businesses;
- Agricultural co-ops; and
- Others may be considered upon request.

### Eligible Activities/Expenses

- Storage, processing and packaging systems and/or technology for perennial crops including:
  - Packing lines, cold storage, and controlled atmosphere storage;
  - Adapting existing buildings for perennial crop cold storage (insulation, refrigeration, ventilation, wall coverings); and
- For harvesting technologies, capital equipment that demonstrably changes the farm's existing practices.

### Ineligible Activities/Expenses

- Expenses related to forage/fodder crops, land clearing, and drainage;
- Meal expenses (including hospitality and hosting of events);
- In-kind contributions (including wages and labour);
- Overhead and/or administration costs;
- Expenses incurred prior to project application;
- BRM-type activities;
- Normal and on-going 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

- Up to 50% of eligible expenses for storage, processing and packaging projects, to a maximum of \$50,000 per project;
- Up to 35% of eligible expenses for harvesting technologies, to a maximum of \$15,000 per project; and

- If program demand exceeds available funds, the Department reserves the right to pro-rate funding.

**NOTE:**

- The maximum funding per recipient is \$100,000 over the life of the Sustainable CAP Framework Agreement (2023-2028).

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR ALL SUB-PROGRAMS**

### **Applications and Assessment:**

- Applications will be assessed for a project's feasibility, and ability to have both ecological and economic benefits. Applicants are reminded to include detailed descriptions of the attributes and anticipated outcomes of the proposed project.

### **Support for Site Assessment and Development:**

- Applicants are encouraged to contact the PEI Department of Agriculture for support required for site assessment and development. Please contact [perennialcrop@gov.pe.ca](mailto:perennialcrop@gov.pe.ca) or (902) 368-4880.

### **Land Ownership and Leasing:**

- The applicant must be the current owner of the land where the orchard/vineyard/perennial crop planting will be established and provide proof of ownership or must provide evidence of a long-term lease agreement or partnership agreement with landowner.

### **Leasing Equipment**

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





## CLAIMS PROCESS

Applicants 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;
- Applicants 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 applicant.
- 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 [perennial@gov.pe.ca](mailto:perennial@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.