

# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Northwest Territories Program Guide

April 1, 2023 – March 21, 2028



Canada



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# Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership Overview

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) supports projects and initiatives that support the following collective outcomes:

- Improve sector environmental performance, adaptation to climate change and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Increase sector capacity and growth across the entire agri-food value chain; and,
- Enhance sector resiliency, diversity, equity and inclusion, and public trust.

Funding is available from April 2023 – March 2028. This funding program replaces the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

## Sustainable CAP Priorities

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

## Areas of Focus for the NWT

**Commercial Agriculture and Agri-Food Development:** to support the development of NWT's Agriculture and Agri-food Sector through the provision of capital and infrastructure investments, services, assets and productive capacity. New or existing producers can obtain resources needed to develop or improve production or efficiencies, expand or diversify operations, implement technologies that increase productive capacity as well as to support the development of value-added food-products.

**Diversity and Extension:** to build agriculture and agri-food competencies through a variety of training and educational programs that meet the needs of and provide benefit to the sector in the NWT. The objective is to build sector diversity and inclusion, and address barriers to entry experienced by Indigenous peoples and underrepresented and marginalized groups. Opportunities for new entrants into the sector to gain knowledge and experience in northern agriculture through mentorships/internships with established members of the sector.

**Community Food Production:** to support community-based initiatives to increase food security and local food capacity, including support for Indigenous food systems and traditional harvesting practices.

**Agri-Environmental Planning:** to build a sustainable agriculture sector through the development of NWT-specific agri-environmental assessment or environmental farm plan guidance, and their subsequent completion.

**Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program (RALP):** to support producers to conserve and enhance the resiliency of agricultural landscapes by accelerating the adoption of land use and management practices that maximize provision of multiple ecological goods and services.

**Market Development:** to support the development of the sector in the NWT, enhance market diversification, facilitate and increase the trade of food products between NWT communities and regions, and increase the competitiveness of established NWT producers and agri-food processors in the marketplace.

**Northern Agriculture and Agri-Food Research:** to support research in primary agriculture, food harvesting, Indigenous food systems, agri-food processing, and value-added food products.

# Eligible Activities

## Commercial Agriculture and Agri-Food Development

- Capital investments for facility and farm development and capacity expansion activities that enhance efficiency, competitiveness, productivity, and the ability to innovate and adopt new technologies.
- Adoption of new products, technologies, practices or processes.
- Efficiency improvements, including reducing and recovering food and other wastes, and growing the bioeconomy.
- Initial capital investment for new-entrant agricultural/food producers or processors.
- Sustainable land development and diversification activities including the clearing and breaking of land and other land improvements.
- Third-party labour and consultant services for professional, technical and analytical support.
- Initiatives to enhance transparency, awareness, communications and inclusive engagement activities, including targeted outreach strategies for youth.
- Improvements to workplace safety.
- Promotion, education and training on safety issues relevant to the sector.
- Industry-led initiatives to address labour shortages, including support for labour attraction and retention, and labour-saving technologies such as automation.

## Diversity and Extension

- Skill development to optimize production and improve profitability, including through the adoption of practices that add value and/or credibility.
- Skill development and service delivery to improve business management, including business and entrepreneur mentoring.
- Initiatives that foster or generate inclusive opportunities for underrepresented and marginalized groups, and address systemic and other barriers to entry.
- Strengthening and development of Indigenous-led agriculture and food systems.
- Agriculture and food processing training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences and any other training and learning activities.

- Learning, training and mentorship initiatives that expand, diversify, or add value to existing NWT agriculture or agri-food businesses.
- Costs eligible for reimbursement include travel expenses (transportation, accommodations, meals and incidentals per diems), registration fees, course fees, instructor/speaker fees, venue and equipment rental fees and educational materials.
- Increased marketing and communications efforts that build in diversity, equity and inclusion messaging within the sector.

### **Community Food Production**

- Activities that strengthen food security and local food capacity, including initiatives that grow and support local production, processing and sales.
- Community-based garden/greenhouse design and/or construction costs (including materials, equipment and freight), garden/greenhouse supplies (including soil, seeds, fertilizer, tools), and greenhouse management costs.
- Hiring of a greenhouse/community garden coordinator or food security coordinator.
- Community-based or regionally-based hands-on training and educational activities, such as workshops and seminars for those interested in growing, harvesting or processing food in order to increase access to locally grown food.
- Educational and communications efforts to increase awareness of the benefits to growing, harvesting and using local food products as a means of enhancing food security.

### **Agri-Environmental Planning**

- Research to support the development of NWT agri-environmental assessment (environmental farm planning) guidance.
- Professional, technical and analytical support to complete agri-environmental assessments.
- Development of tools to raise producer awareness and inform on-farm decision-making to effectively address climate risks and pursue targeted environmental action.
- Support for the Sector's response to environmental and climate-related emergencies.

## **Resilient Agriculture Landscape Program (RALP)**

- Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that maximize provision of multiple ecological goods and services such as maintenance and provision of healthy soil and water resources, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and adapting to impacts of climate change.
- Support for enhanced knowledge transfer, extension, technical assistance, promotion, education, training and demonstration activities for best management practices and other practices and innovations (including clean technologies) that address agri-environmental issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Northern Agriculture and Agri-Food Research:**

- Research that is closely aligned with the needs of the sector in the NWT (agriculture, food harvesting, Indigenous food systems, agri-food processing, and value-added food products) and pursues inclusive economic growth opportunities, improves sector sustainability, and strengthens the long-term resilience of the Sector.
- Revitalization of diverse Indigenous food and knowledge systems and improve accessibility to research and knowledge transfer supports for Indigenous peoples and underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- Research and associated activities that relate to climate change adaptation, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, protection of and regeneration of soils, water, and air quality, improving biodiversity and protection of sensitive habitats, and reducing, recovering, and reusing wastes.

## **Market Development:**

- Development and evaluation of business plans to take on new or expanded market opportunities.
- Marketing and product development and adaptation activities that support the value-added food and beverage processing sector.
- Actions that foster more inclusive economic growth in the sector through market development and trade activities, taking into account the needs of Indigenous peoples and underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- Activities related to the branding, marketing, and awareness-building to improve recognition of the quality and sustainability of NWT agri-foods including the development and design of brochures, logos, labels, signage and packaging.
- Development and identification of supply chains through funding to offset costs to transport food products from the point of NWT harvest/production to NWT markets.



- Food branding initiatives for local producers and processors, assessed on a case by case basis to ensure the initiative does not lead to competition with another jurisdiction.
- Marketing organizations including farmers markets and agri-tourism ventures.
- Participation in relevant marketing events including registration fees and travel costs.

*Don't see your project idea listed here? Speak to your regional Industry, Tourism and Investment team to see if it fits under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership or other funding program.*

### **Funding cannot be provided for:**

- Used equipment funded by the GNWT within the last five years.
- Normal and on-going operating and maintenance costs incurred by recipients, except as otherwise specified.
- Purchase of common items that can be used for multiple purposes (e.g., digital cameras, GPS, smartphones, measuring tapes, trucks, trailers, tractors).
- Purchase and construction of multi-purpose structures (barns, storage sheds). Specialized interior components of agricultural structures may be eligible for funding.
- Road development or purchase of land.
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to agriculture, agri-food and/or agri-based products industry.
- Equine activities including riding stables, horse racing, and recreational riding activities.
- Activities related to aquaponic food production, and to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing.
- Tax credits, rebates and the refundable portion of the Goods and Services Tax and interest charges are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Development and enforcement of regulations.

# Eligible Recipients and Applicant Steams

The following recipient types have been identified as eligible for all Sustainable-CAP NWT funding. There is one exception, and that is for the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP). Processors, retailer/wholesalers, and service providers are not eligible for funding for activities related to RALP:

- Primary Producer
- Processor
- Harvester
- Industry Organization
- Research Body/Institution
- Retailer/Wholesaler
- Service Provider
- Municipal Government
- Indigenous Government
- Indigenous Community
- Indigenous Organization
- Indigenous Individual

## **Applicant Stream 1: Commercial Producers, Processors, Harvesters and other Agri-Businesses (including Indigenous-owned businesses)**

- Must be a registered business in the NWT and have been in operation in the NWT for at least one year. Registration or incorporation under relevant legislation is required.
- Must be recognized as a legal entity capable of entering into a contractual agreement and be in good standing with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).
- Must have reported at least \$10,000 in farming income or business income to the Canada Revenue Agency within the previous year.
- Projects may require submission of a business plan prior to funding approval.
- Funding will be provided for up to 75% of project costs unless otherwise specified, with a program lifetime maximum of \$125,000\*.
- Major Agricultural Projects may be eligible for up to 75% funding to a maximum of \$250,000, with third party analysis of a business plan.

- All businesses from which goods or services are purchased must be at Arm's Length from the applicant, meaning not immediate family member(s) of the applicant (connected by blood relationship, adoption, marriage or common law partnership), not business affiliates of the applicant, or controlled in any way by the applicant.
- Family members from the same farm, company, corporation or partnership shall be eligible as one individual, and not as separate recipients.

*\*Stream 1 recipients exceeding program maximums may still submit applications for review by program administrators; these applications will be reviewed subject to available funding.*

## **Applicant Stream 2: New Entrants and Small Businesses**

- Must be a registered business in the NWT. Registration or incorporation under relevant legislation is required.
- Farm or business is in a planning or development stage (has not reported more than \$10,000 in income).
- New Entrants and small businesses are eligible for a maximum of \$30,000 in funding in two phases:
  - **Phase 1:** Up to \$10,000 (cumulative) for activities including, but not limited to: initial start-up costs, business planning, training, and development of agri-environmental plans.
  - **Phase 2:** Upon completion of a business plan, up to \$20,000 of additional funding to implement priority components identified in the business plan.
- Additional funding within the Sustainable CAP program will be subject to the applicant having reported a minimum of \$10,000 in farm or business income to the Canada Revenue Agency or enrollment in AgriStability.\*
- Expenses will be reimbursed to a maximum of 75% of project costs unless otherwise specified.
- All businesses from which goods or services are purchased must be at Arm's Length from the applicant, meaning not immediate family member(s) of the applicant (connected by blood relationship, adoption, marriage or common law partnership), not business affiliates of the applicant, or controlled in any way by the applicant.
- Family members from the same farm, company, corporation or partnership shall be eligible as one individual, and not as separate recipients.

*\*Once the \$30,000 Stream 2 funding threshold has been reached, applications from businesses that report less than \$10,000 in annual farm or business income may still be considered. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether there has been extenuating circumstances why the applicant has not been able to develop their agriculture or food production operation and reach \$10,000 in income.*

### **Applicant Stream 3: Community and Indigenous Agriculture**

- Applicants must be:
  - a non-profit organization registered and in compliance under the *Northwest Territories Societies Act* or incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, in good standing, and open to public membership; or
  - an Indigenous government/municipal/territorial government; or
  - an educational institution.
- Projects must be clearly related to food production, provide a benefit to the broader community or industry, and contribute to at least one of the Sustainable CAP Priorities.
- Applicants are eligible for up to 100% of project costs with a program lifetime maximum of \$125,000\*.

*\*Stream 3 recipients exceeding program maximums may still submit applications for review by program administrators; these applications will be reviewed subject to available funding.*

# Funding Maximums

Unless otherwise specified, industry organizations and municipal, territorial and Indigenous governments are eligible for up to 100% of project costs.

The following activities are subject to specific maximum funding dollar amounts:

Activity	Funding Maximum
Livestock fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$9.00/linear foot, \$50,000 program lifetime maximum</li> </ul>
<b>Training and Business Development</b>	
Business planning (consultant services) and business software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$5,000 (\$100 applicant contribution for every \$1,000 in funding)</li> <li>• Above \$5,000: up to 75% of costs, \$20,000 program lifetime maximum</li> </ul>
Internships/mentorships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Streams 1 and 2:</b> Up to 75% of intern wages to maximum of \$7,500 per year and \$22,500 program lifetime maximum</li> </ul>
<b>Land Utilization and Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs)</b>	
Field Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to \$1,000/quarter acre</li> </ul>
<b>Community-based Food Production</b>	
Community Gardens and community food production initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$35,000/year</li> </ul>

# Application Process

- Applicants are encouraged to consult with your regional Industry, Tourism and Investment team to understand the application process and ensure their project meets the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership priorities and eligibility criteria.
- Applications are reviewed either by a Business Development Officer or Manager, or a Project Evaluation Panel, depending on the project details.
- Additional information may be requested by the Business Development Officer or Manager prior to going to a Project Evaluation Panel review. Applications deemed incomplete will not be reviewed.
- For all applications involving consultants or contractors, a quote from the consultant or contractor as well as the consultant's qualifications must be included with the application.
- All businesses from which goods or services are purchased must be at **Arm's Length** from the applicant, meaning not immediate family member(s) of the applicant (connected by blood relationship, adoption, marriage or common law partnership), not business affiliates of the applicant, or controlled in any way by the applicant.
- Once a project is approved for funding, a Contribution Agreement (CA) must be signed by the applicant and the Government of Northwest Territories. Both parties must sign the CA before the first payment can be processed.
- Projects must be completed per terms of the CA. **Any purchases made or activities started before the effective date indicated in the terms of the CA will not be eligible for funding.** Recipients are required to communicate any changes to project plans and timelines to project manager for approval.
- All applications for funding are subject to the Northwest Territories *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Applications may be shared with other government departments providing funding to the project with permission of the applicant. Once the CA is signed, the details of the agreement that are government funded become accessible to the public. Information that is posted on the web may include: the name of the recipient, the amount of funding provided, the project title, and a brief description.
- A final report/project evaluation must be completed and an itemized list of approved expenses with copies of receipts must be provided prior to the release of the final payment. For events such as conferences and workshops, feedback from attendees is required.



