

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVING LAB IS COMING TO BC AGRICULTURE

December 5th, 2022 – Victoria, BC:

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) is pleased to announce Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has funded its multi-commodity application to the Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs (ACS-LL) program.

ACS-LL supports practical, iterative, and collaborative innovation on farms and ranches. Supported by research, the goal is to increase the adoption of effective practices and technologies that help farmers respond to climate change mitigation and improve the natural environment.

As part of the ACS-LL program, the BC Living Lab will build off existing work and resources from our sector to develop practices and share information that will truly benefit BC farmers and ranchers. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure BC farms remain economically viable and that our water, air, and soil are sustainable for generations to come.

“This is a great achievement for agriculture in BC,” said Jack DeWit, Chair, IAF Board of Directors. “IAF has been actively working with producers, farm associations, scientists, research groups and other sectoral stakeholders to develop this project and we now have the BC Living Lab to further our climate change mitigation goals.”

With involvement from industry associations, academic institutions, federal government, and provincial government staff, IAF and its partners will be looking to refine and start implementing the project work plan this fall. IAF is grateful to have the BC Agriculture Council as a key partner in the project and looks forward to strengthening relationships across the sector as the living lab gets underway.

Partners of the BC Living Lab include:

- BC Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network
- BC Blueberry Council
- BC Cattlemen’s Association
- BC Cherry Association
- BC Dairy Association
- BC Forage Council
- BC Fruit Growers’ Association
- BC Potato & Vegetable Growers’ Association
- BC Wine Grape Council
- Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust
- Raspberry Industry Development Council
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Northern British Columbia

Additional Quotes

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food:

“British Columbia farmers, ranchers and key partners are leading the way to creating a sustainable and thriving agricultural sector in the province. Each living lab is a commitment to supporting and developing strong ecological farming practices and technologies, allowing for the industry to prosper both environmentally and economically for years to come. BC farmers and ranchers are working together through this Canada-wide collaboration and are implementing effective and long-term solutions to combat climate change.”

Hans Buchler, Research Coordinator, British Columbia Wine Grape Council

“Growers in the grape sector are interested in changes to their farm management practices that improve their quality and profitability, while also reducing their environmental impact. [...] The BC Living Lab will benefit growers and researchers through mutual exchange of knowledge and experience, which will allow us to better quantify the impacts of various approaches on soil biology and fertility, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, and crop health and quality.”

Jeremy Dunn, General Manager, BC Dairy

“The BC Living Lab provides a unique opportunity to identify and refine environmentally beneficial practices already being used on farms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in soil and communicate those best practices out to the community. This project will allow us to define the economic and environmental factors specific to BC’s dairy farming context, and then foster the adoption of sustainable practices in ways that make sense locally. This initiative has the potential to play a key role in helping dairy farmers meet the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.”

About the BC Living Lab:

The BC Living Lab is a producer-centric research and development project focused on climate change mitigation practices that benefit the environment while meeting farmers’ needs. This is a collaborative project being undertaken by IAF and key partners in the BC agriculture sector.

Practices being developed increase the amount of carbon that can be stored in soil or reduce the greenhouse gases generated during agricultural production. The project started in Summer 2022 and will continue until March 2027.

For more information about the Agricultural Climate Solutions: BC Living Lab Program: www.bclivinglab.ca

About ACS & ACS-Living Labs:

Agricultural Climate Solutions is a multi-stream program that will help to develop and implement farming practices to tackle climate change. Through agricultural practices, such as shelterbelts or cover crops, farmland can store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Agricultural Climate Solutions – Living Labs is a \$185 million, 10-year program that aims to establish a strong Canada-wide network of regional collaborations led by farmers and including scientists and other sectoral

stakeholders. Together, they will develop and share natural solutions and farming practices to ensure farms remain competitive and that our water, air, and soil are sustainable for generations to come.

To be eligible for ACS-LL, applicants must form a large network of partnerships within a province, including agricultural non-profits, Indigenous organizations, and environmental groups.

Learn more at <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agriculture-and-environment/agricultural-climate-solutions>

IAF is a non-profit organization that delivers programs to support a thriving agriculture and agri-food sector in British Columbia.

With 25+ years of experience, IAF is recognized as the leading provider of high-quality and cost-effective program delivery services for the agriculture and agri-food sector in BC; having delivered more than \$250 million to industry on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

www.iafbc.ca

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