



Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture Program

2021-2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM)

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CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

The governments of Canada and Nova Scotia are committed to ensuring farmers and processors have the tools they need to innovate, grow and prosper. The *Canadian Agricultural Partnership* agreement is part of a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to promote productivity and profitability for the sector. The programs are designed to help the industry position itself to respond to future opportunities and to realize its full potential as a significant contributor to the economy. Programs are also tailored with the flexibility to meet diverse regional requirements.

The partnership is a five-year, \$3-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments that aims to strengthen the agriculture and agri-food sector and ensure continued innovation, growth and prosperity. The partnership includes \$1 billion for federal activities and programs, and \$2 billion in cost-shared programs delivered by provinces and territories on a 60-40 basis. In Nova Scotia, \$37 million will be invested through provincially delivered programs focusing on Markets and Trade; Science, Research and Innovation; Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change; Risk Management; Value Added Agriculture and Agri-Food Processing; and Public Trust.

In addition to cost-shared strategic initiatives, the partnership includes several business risk-management programs to help farmers manage risks that threaten the viability of their farms.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Recognizing that value-adding and innovation often happens through small, incremental improvements over a period of time, the objective of the Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture program is to support agricultural producers and processors who seek to advance their operations through innovation, efficiency and quality improvements. This program is designed to assist with increasing the competitiveness and profitability of Nova Scotia's agriculture sector by supporting the production efficiency of value-added agri-products.

The Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture program has two main goals:

- to support an operation's ability to identify, develop and commercialize value-added agri-products new to Nova Scotia; and
- to support value-added agri-food processors with plant modernization activities that increase efficiency, productivity and energy efficiency.

ELIGIBILITY

Farm

- currently and properly registered in the right income category under the *Farm Registration Act*;
- applicant is at least 19 years of age and actively farming in the program year; and
- generates an annual eligible gross commodity income of \$30,000. The eligible commodity income will be based on the Statement of Farming Activities (T2042, T1273 or Schedule 125 - Farm Revenue: detailing sales by commodity revenue code).

Agri-Business:

- represents identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products;
- generates an annual gross income of \$30,000 or more; and
- conducts value-added processing of a raw Nova Scotia agriculture product which demonstrates a direct partnership and significant economic impact to the Nova Scotia primary agricultural industry.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Applicants can apply for a maximum of 50% assistance to a maximum of \$50,000 per project in the Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture Program. The maximum an applicant can receive for the duration of the CAP program (2018-2023) is \$150,000.

Note: No more than 100% of non-repayable funding can be received for any eligible project cost incurred and paid for by the applicant, regardless of source. Applicants are required to disclose all funding sources.

ASSESSMENT FACTORS FOR FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

Level of Innovation / Efficiency Improvements – Degree to which the new farm technology or processes improve efficiency, productivity and quality of value-added agri-products, including projects related to energy efficiency. A higher rating will be given to those applications that reflect a significant improvement to efficiency, productivity and/or product quality.

Degree of Industry Reach – Degree to which project goes beyond the scope of the applicant's individual business. A higher rating will be given for a broad reach within the Nova Scotia agricultural industry, particularly partnerships with and impact to the primary agriculture sector.

Level of Economic Impact – A higher rating will be given to applications that reflect a significant economic impact to the applicant's business and the wider Nova Scotia agricultural industry.

Completeness of Application – Degree of completeness of each section on the Application. A thoroughly completed Application will allow the project to be well understood by the reader and properly assessed for acceptance into the Program.

Government Perspective of Risk – Refers to the perceived degree of risk to the sector or individual. Government contribution to the project is intended to help offset risk.

Other — Other factors deemed necessary.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**Plant Modernization Activities (must significantly enhance efficiency and productivity)**

Financial support will be provided to assist agri-businesses in increasing productivity, reducing costs and implementing existing or custom systems to enhance final product quality / processing operations.

Note: A lean gap analysis is recommended however not mandatory.

Energy Efficient Systems & Technology

Financial support will be provided to assist with projects that focus on the implementation of sustainable energy efficient systems and technology. These adoptions within the Nova Scotia Agriculture sector must help reduce environmental footprint and energy costs of value-added operations.

Eligible expenses include:

- direct project costs;
- contracted labour / consultants / professional fees / training;
- materials / supplies / rentals;
- Modifications to existing equipment or technology for optimization or to enable installation of automation and labour-saving equipment / technology;
- One-time software systems related to upgrading and acquiring new equipment / technology;
- specialized equipment & shipping;
- transfer of knowledge / sharing of information activities; and
- HST for qualifying not-for-profit organizations.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES**These include but are not limited to:**

- administrative / general overhead;
- buildings / building modifications;
- in-kind contributions;
- multiple pieces of equipment with the same function (e.g., two specialized sprayers);
- ongoing software licensing costs or fees;
- operating expenses / existing staff salaries;
- tools; and
- travel.

NOTE: Applicants are asked to prioritize their submissions. In the instance of multiple applications submitted by a single applicant, no more than two can be simultaneously active within the life of the program (2018-2023).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted by April 1, 2021. Late applications will not be accepted. To apply for the Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture Program, complete and submit the Application. Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the Activity Period stated in the below table, however, expenses incurred prior to the date of project approval are at the applicant's risk.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
February 1, 2021 - April 1, 2021	April 1, 2021 - March 1, 2022	March 1, 2022

Note 1: There is a requirement for demonstration and sharing of technology for each project that is completed. This activity needs to be reflected in your Application. If there are any associated costs, these will need to be identified within the breakdown of project costs.

Note 2: Clients new to PBRM programs since 2018 must complete the Program Funding Registration form. Returning clients, must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

Note 3: All projects requiring external approvals and/or permits must include copies of issued approvals and/or permits attached to the application (ie. from bodies such as Natural Products Marketing Council, Department of Environment, municipal offices, etc.).

APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Applications will be reviewed and rated by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture (NSDA).
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** which identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered, and the terms and conditions under which assistance is approved.
3. Review, sign and return the LOA to PBRM within **30 days** of the date of the letter or your funding will be forfeited.

CLAIMING PROCESS

1. Claim deadline is noted in table above (page 5), in Application Process.
2. Complete and sign the **Program Claim Form** that you received with your LOA.
3. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs incurred and paid for by the applicant.
4. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – debit slips, cancelled cheques, or credit card statements. (receipted invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted)
5. Submit your claim with the required supporting documentation to the PBRM office by the claim deadline.

Note: No payment will be made for claims under \$20.00.

Payment Holdback: 25% of the submitted claim will be held back until the required Final Report, satisfactory to PBRM, has been submitted. The holdback payment will be processed for payment after the Final Report has been received.

FINAL REPORT

Projects approved for funding have the following mandatory reporting requirements:

- a Final Report is to be submitted to PBRM office (template provided with LOA);
- the Final Report must be submitted at the time of the final claim;
- failure to submit a complete Final Report will affect future funding considerations by the PBRM office and eligible claim payment will be reduced by 25%;
- Final Reports may be made available publicly on the NSDA website; and
- a follow up review may be conducted after project completion.

LEASED LAND

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for the assistance on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease (10 years) or rental agreement must accompany the Application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration. You must advise us immediately, in writing, if the lease is terminated, if the term of the lease changes or if the identity of the lessor changes in any way (for example, if the lessor assigns the lease or if the lease changes in composition).

ARM'S LENGTH TRANSACTIONS

Financial assistance will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that involve a supplier/service provider with an arms-length relationship to the applicant for approved projects. For the purposes of Programs, Arm's Length is defined as individuals who are NOT connected by blood relationship, marriage, common-law partnership, or adoption.

AUTHORITY

NSDA shall have the authority to deny an application if there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information or if NSDA believes that an application does not conform to the spirit of the Program.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

Review and evaluation of projects may be carried out by NSDA, Government of Canada or other parties chosen by NSDA for the purpose of audit, analysis, evaluation, program development and determining financial assistance. This review and evaluation process may be conducted prior to project commencement, during work or upon project completion. Applicants may be asked to complete an evaluation survey related to their final claim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applicants consent to the release of their name and the amount of support received under the program. This specific information is deemed to be public information, to be actively disseminated by NSDA. NSDA may provide any information from an applicant to another public body or a law-enforcement agency in Canada to assist in an investigation, undertaken with a view to a law-enforcement proceeding or from which a law-enforcement proceeding is likely to result. Any other information provided, unless disclosed in the manner and for the purposes stated above, will be subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP) Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit all documents related to the Technologies for Value-Added Agriculture Program to PBRM at the address, email or fax number below. For more information about the Program, please contact PBRM or your regional office.

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	Sydney	902-563-2000