

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Fruit and Vegetable Industry
Development Program

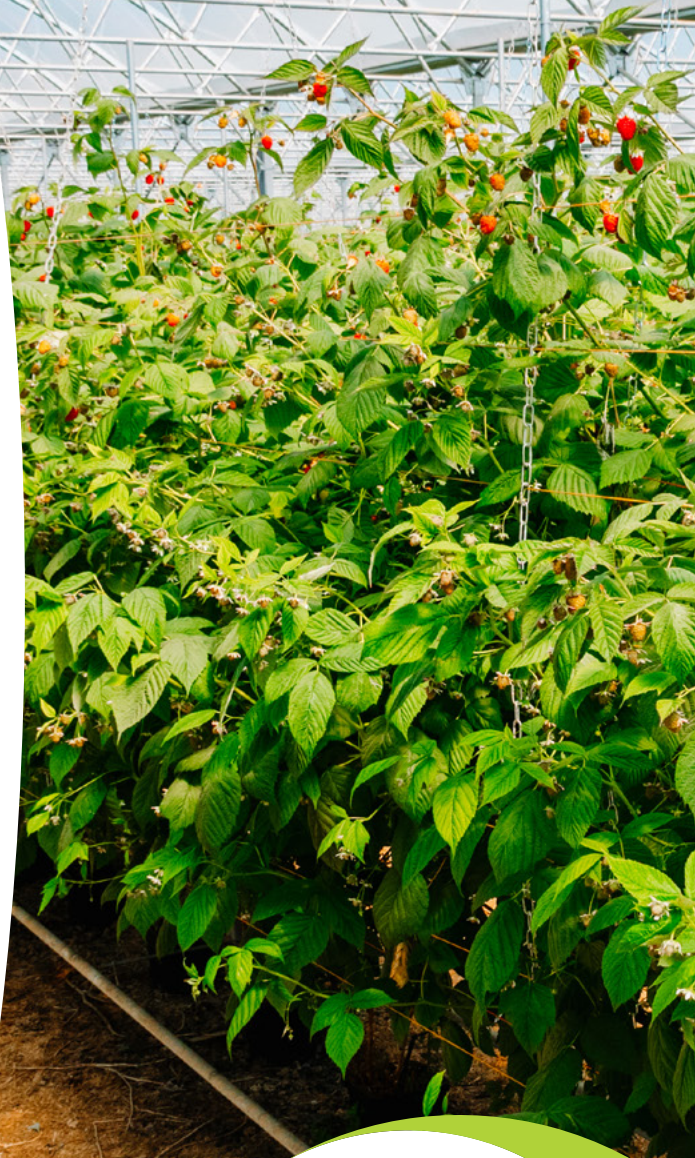




Program Description/ Objectives

To encourage and support New Brunswick fruit and mixed vegetable producers who want to increase production by providing financial assistance for:

1. adopting season extension and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) technologies;
2. enhancing storage capacity; and
3. investing in on-farm equipment to improve efficiencies and build production capacity.



Eligibility Applicants:

A) Eligible Applicants:

- New Brunswick producers of fruits and mixed vegetables including new entrants that supply NB consumers with commodities that do not meet the province's self-sufficiency status.
- New entrants whose ultimate goal is commercial-scale production.

B) Eligibility Criteria:

- Activities must be carried out within the province of New Brunswick.
- New entrants or applicants with limited experience are required to submit an up-to-date formal business plan or an up-to-date Fruit and Vegetable Industry Development (FVID) program questionnaire with their application.

Program Deadlines:

Projects will be evaluated as they are received until funding is exhausted.

All applications must be received no later than February 1st, 2024

Approval Process:

The projects will be evaluated and selected based on program guidelines and merit. Project merit will be assessed according to the following criteria:

1. the comprehensive project description and justifications (application form, business plan and/or questionnaire),
2. its suitability to the immediate situation of the applicant,
3. project impact on the operation and on the sector,
4. proposed budget,
5. whether the project involves other producers and
6. the experience of the applicant.

ELEMENT A:

Season Extension and CEA Technologies

Objectives:

To support fruit and vegetable producers who want to increase their production capacity through season extension and controlled environment agriculture (CEA) technologies. This element aims to increase production capacity, increase the province's food self-sufficiency, and allow for production of produce in the off season and/or year-round by investing in season extension and CEA technologies.

Eligible Items:

- Heated greenhouses, unheated greenhouses, tunnels (high, low or mini-tunnels) or hydroponic technologies.
- Materials and equipment to be considered for funding include plastic, polycarbonate; thermal row covers (for greenhouses and tunnels only); steel structures; heating, ventilation, electrical, plumbing, anchoring systems, environmental condition monitors and controllers and irrigation system for season extension and CEA technologies.
- Upgrades may be considered if there is a strong rationale.

Notes:

- The structures may be used or new but should be designed to meet industry standards and off-season weather conditions and designed and used for mixed vegetable and/or fruit production. Preference will be given to pre-fabricated "engineered" greenhouse and high tunnel technologies. Preference will be given to greenhouses and tunnels that allow incremental production capacity.
- Only the cost of off-farm hired labor for site preparation and assembly of the greenhouses or high tunnels will be eligible, unless otherwise specified in the letter of offer.

Ineligible Items:

- Replacement of components for existing season extension and CEA technologies.
- Plastic and biodegradable materials that are used for a one-year growing season.
- Thermal row covers for field production.

Level of Assistance:

- 30 to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$30,000 per producer per year. A new entrant may qualify for an additional 10% to the maximum of \$30,000 per producer per year.



ELEMENT B:

Post-Harvest Cooling, Freezing and On-Farm Storage Systems

Objectives:

To support fruit and vegetable producers who do not have adequate cooling and storage capacity to supply the market during the cropping season and the off-season. This element aims to increase production capacity, increase the province's food self-sufficiency, and allow producers to offer improved quality of produce during the season, the off-season and/or year-round by investing in produce conditioning equipment and on-farm storage capacity.

Eligible Items:

- On-farm cooling, refrigerating, freezing and storage technologies for fruit and vegetable including freezers, refrigerators, walk-in coolers, Coolbot systems, heating/curing systems, controlled atmosphere systems, in-floor drainage systems, plumbing systems, ventilation systems, electrical, insulation and cement base, environmental condition monitors and controllers and other related building supplies.
- Technologies that allow for field heat removal from produce such as hydro or air
- Pre-cooling systems.
- The components of the on-farm storage facility may be used or new but should be designed to meet industry standards. Engineering plans may be required.
- Only the cost of off-farm hired labor for site preparation and construction of the facility will be eligible, unless otherwise specified in the letter of offer.

- The proposed on-farm storage facility could be a stand-alone building or may be integrated into an existing building. The facility should meet basic on-farm food safety and must comply with any other food safety program required by the farm's supply chain (ex: Export, wholesale, direct to consumer markets, etc.). The facility should also be insulated and have an appropriate temperature regulating system.
- Upgrades may be considered if there is a strong rationale.

Preference will be given to facilities to be used for the storage of fruit and vegetable crops which will be sold throughout the off-season (outside the cropping season).

Ineligible Items:

- Units that are used for the transportation of produce are not eligible.

Level of Assistance:

- 30 to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$30,000 per producer per year. A new entrant may qualify for an additional 10% to the maximum of \$30,000 per producer per year.
- Assistance for a new building which houses in part the storage facility will be based on the % of the area occupied by the storage facility.

Scaling-up:

Objectives:

To support fruit and vegetable producers who want to expand their business by increasing their production capacity. This element aims to increase production capacity, increase the province's food self-sufficiency, and allow producers to capture market opportunities by investing in equipment that improves production efficiencies which allow for additional production capacity.

Eligible Items:

- Equipment and related supplies that involve automation and improve efficiency may be eligible provided it allows additional production capacity.
- Equipment associated with field production of fruit and mixed vegetable crops such as bed shapers/plastic layers, precision seeders, planters, weeders and harvesters may be eligible provided it allows additional production capacity.
- Equipment used to wash, clean, grade and/or pack produce and related supplies (electrical and plumbing systems) may be eligible provided it allows additional production capacity.
- The equipment may be used or new but should be designed to meet industry standards.
- Only the cost of off-farm hired labor for site preparation, to assemble and to install the equipment will be eligible, unless otherwise specified in the letter of offer.

Ineligible Items:

- Small manual equipment (shovels, hand weeders, rakes, broad forks, ...).
- Replacement of equipment with those of similar production capacities.
- Building to house equipment, processing equipment (value-added activities), tractors, walk-behind two-wheel tractors, tillage equipment, land improvement activities, field irrigation systems, soil amendments, fertilizers, seeds, seedlings, pesticides, spreaders, sprayers and harvest containers.
- Row covers and geotextile/ground covers for field production.

Level of Assistance:

- 30 to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$30,000 per producer per year. A new entrant may qualify for an additional 10% to the maximum of to \$30,000 per producer per year.

Costs incurred prior to April 1st, 2023 are not eligible for assistance.

Cost incurred before the project is approved will not be eligible for assistance unless indicated in the letter of offer.

Maximum Contribution from Program:

Under Elements A, B and C, the maximum combined contribution an applicant can receive is \$30,000 per year. Higher level of assistance for producers or groups of producers (e.g. higher % assistance or higher maximum contributions) may be considered where strong rationale and significant benefit back to the sector as a whole can be demonstrated (for example, projects that relate to the New Brunswick Local Food and Beverages Strategy and Food Self Sufficiency Initiatives).



Administrative Guidelines

All applicants must be familiar with the administrative guidelines prior to applying. The Administrative Guidelines can be found here: [**SCAP Administrative Guidelines**](#)



Other Requirements

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any necessary permits, environmental approvals, or certifications are obtained to complete their project.



Reporting

Applicants may be required to report on the impact of the funding received. Reporting requirements will be outlined in the letter of offer.

How to Apply

Applicants should discuss applications with appropriate Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff (Business Growth Officer, Development Officer or Specialist) before applying. A list of departmental contacts can be found at the following link:

[**Crop Sector Development \(Branch\) \(gnb.ca\)**](#)

Completed applications may be submitted by e-mail or mail.

E-mail Applications:

[**Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca**](mailto:Sustainable.CAP@gnb.ca)

Mail Applications:

Sustainable CAP Program Administrator
Industry Financial Programs
Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1