

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet & St'at'imc Agricultural Plan

PART 2: VISION, PRIORITIES, RECOMMENDED ACTIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY



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Submitted by



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
Acronyms.....	v
Introduction	1
Vision Statement.....	1
Agricultural Plan Priorities and Recommended Actions	3
Implementation Strategy.....	27
Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.....	29
Appendix	
I. Plan Area Map	31
II. Funding Opportunities	32
II. Online Resources for Farmers and Ranchers.....	41

List of Tables

Table 1. Top ten short term priority actions.....	28
Table 2. Short term performance indicators	29
Table 3. Long term performance indicators	30

List of Figures

Cover photo: Farm in Texas Creek area (I. Smith, 2013)

Figure 1. Plan Area Map	31
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Acronyms

AAC	SLRD Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee
AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
AGRI	BC Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
ARDCorp	Agriculture Research and Development Corporation
BCAA	BC Assessment Authority
BCAC	BC Agriculture Council
BCCA	BC Cattleman's Association
BCCAI	BC Climate Action Initiative
BCCDC	BC Centre for Disease Control
BCEMB	BC Egg Marketing Board
BCMh	BC Ministry of Health
BCMMB	BC Milk Marketing Board
BC MPA	BC Milk Producers Association
BCMoe	BC Ministry of Environment
BCMScD	BC Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CLI	Canadian Land Inventory
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
DPA	Development Permit Area
DoL	District of Lillooet
FIRB	Farm Industry Review Board
FPPA	Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act
IAF	Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC
IHA	Interior Health Authority
LGA	Local Government Act
LRISS	Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
L TSA	Land Title and Survey Authority of BC
LUI	Land Use Inventory
MIR	Meat Inspection Regulation
MoFLNRO	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
MOTI	BC Ministry Transportation
OCP	Official Community Plan
PHSA	Provincial Health Services Authority
REF	Real Estate Foundation
SGS	St'at'imc Government Services
SLRD	Squamish Lillooet Regional District
SSFPA	Small Scale Food Processor Association
TRU	Thompson Rivers University
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities
WDM	Water Demand Model
WWOOF	Willing Workers on Organic Farms

Introduction

This Part 2 of the *Agricultural Plan* follows on the heels of Part 1, which acted as a scoping document and included background context information, an agricultural profile of the region, a market opportunities analysis, and a regulatory system overview.

In Part 2, the information provided in Part 1 has been brought forward, along with a vision statement, to develop priorities and recommended actions that will assist in planning for agriculture in the SLRD Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet, and St'at'imc. It also includes an implementation strategy with performance indicators to monitor. A list of potential funding opportunities is included in Appendix II.

Plan Area

The *Agricultural Plan* is a cross-jurisdictional plan, with the Plan Area including SLRD Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet, and St'at'imc agricultural lands. A map illustrating the Plan Area is provided in Appendix I.

Vision Statement

The vision, as developed by the *Agricultural Plan* Working Group, is as follows:

“Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet and St'at'imc Traditional Territory, best agricultural region in BC, well known for innovation, sustainability, economic strength and food security - a community worth experiencing.”



Agricultural Plan Priorities

The surveys, interviews with key agricultural stakeholders and St'at'imc members, and feedback gathered during public events were compiled to yield some common themes and top priorities for the region. The following six priorities (in no particular order) emerged as a result of the public engagement efforts and development of the market opportunities analysis.

Priorities

1. Enhancing the Agricultural Market Viability of the Region
2. Developing Supportive Policies and Regulations
3. Fostering Collaboration between the St'at'imc and Farming Community
4. Promoting Awareness and Education
5. Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Practices
6. Encouraging Water Conservation and Climate Change Preparedness
7. Creating an Implementation Plan

Each of these priorities is explained below, and a series of recommended actions are provided in table format. The table includes a list of suggested key players (including lead agency and supporting partners), along with priority level, timeframe, funding requirements and potential funding sources. It is important to note that the inclusion of any organization or agency in this list does not translate into a commitment on their part to participate; rather it provides a suggestion regarding the appropriate type of leadership and support required in order for each action to succeed. The overall responsibility for the implementation of the *Agricultural Plan* rests with the SLRD itself and, therefore, some of the actions are steps that the Regional District can implement. However, this is truly a community-based plan, and members of the farming community and supporting organizations are expected to take a lead role in many of the actions. The following columns of information are included in the tables:

Actions

1A, 1B, 1C, etc.: Describes the specific action(s) required to meet the stated objective.

Key Players

Lead(s): One or more agencies could take a lead role in embarking upon the activity.

Supporting: One or more agencies that will likely partner to assist with implementing the action.

Priority

High: Requires urgent action for progress to be made and/or for other actions to succeed.

Medium: Not critical for actions to move forward, but necessary and important.

Low: Less important but still necessary for improvements in the local agriculture system.

Timeframe

Short: To be completed within 1-3 years.

Medium: To be completed within 3-5 years.

Long: To be completed within 5-10 years.

Ongoing: Will require continued efforts over the short-long term timeframe.

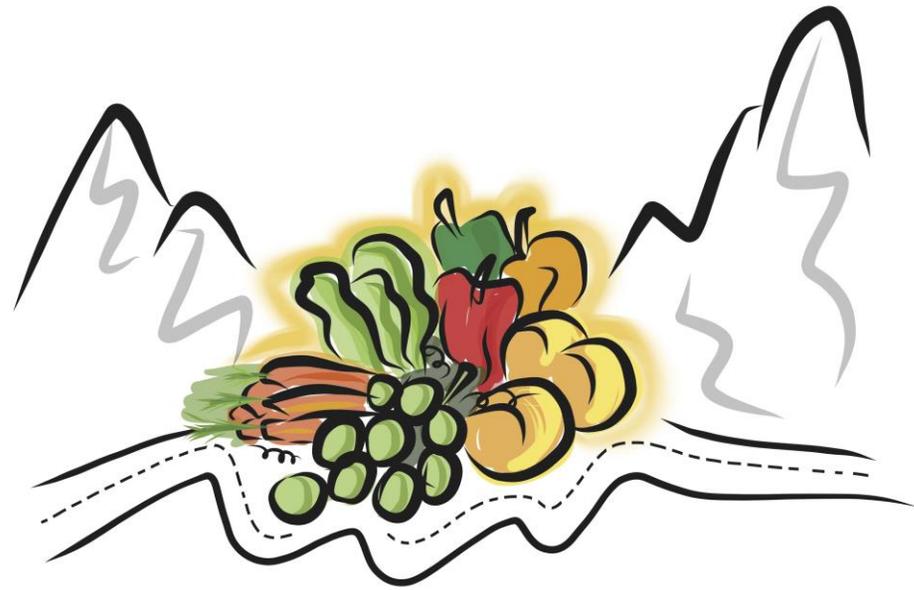
Funding Requirements and Sources

Requirements: Listed as Existing, Negligible, Low, Moderate, or Significant

Sources: Agencies who offer financial support, including those who may offer in-kind support.

Priority #1 – Enhancing the Agricultural Market Viability of the Region

Local agricultural producers expressed their concerns with accessing markets for their products. Operators are able to produce a fairly wide variety of crops and livestock products, but there are limited avenues for local sales in the immediate vicinity. The majority of small-scale produce growers are unable to provide enough quantity of products for export out of the region independently, or to sell to retail outlets and restaurants on a consistent basis. However, success may be achieved by growing and marketing in a collaborative manner. By marketing the Lillooet region as an affordable and attractive agricultural area, new farmers may be encouraged to move in and increase local production capacity; thereby creating more potential for collaboration amongst growers and between producers and retailers. To do this, a comprehensive mapping resource could be created using the 2013 LUI data and 2014 Water Demand Model data to clearly identify the agricultural potential of the region with water, soil, sunlight and nutrient data.



Enhancing the **AGRICULTURAL MARKET VIABILITY** of the region

During the one-on-one interviews it was clear that local retailers have a keen interest in offering local products for sale and have expressed that there is a local demand. Many growers may be unaware of the capacity for retailers to purchase small quantities of products from local farmers throughout the year. There is potential for growers to enter into contract growing relationships with the local retailers as long as clear

communication is established. Local retailers have also suggested the potential for utilizing existing distribution and transportation networks of trucks returning to the Lower Mainland and elsewhere that could carry local products to other markets.

It was also identified that a collective marketing association would benefit the region greatly. Farmers are currently working in isolation to sell their products within and outside of the region. An association could be established to help raise the profile of local farms to tourists and the local community. This marketing association could also help to create grower groups to provide agricultural products to export markets. By creating a cross-commodity Farmers Institute (recommendation 1.3G), which would include ranchers, many of the actions in this Priority could be implemented in a stream-lined manner.

Recommended Actions

1.1 Develop initiatives to increase the sale of local agricultural products.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Establish partnerships between farmers and retailers to improve communication, promote agricultural business development, spearhead agricultural initiatives, and identify and access funding opportunities.	Leads: Farmers, Retailers Supporting: SLRD, DoL, SGS	High	Short	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, NEDI
B. Develop and implement a local food procurement policy. Such a policy would allow local institutions to demonstrate their commitment and support for locally produced foods.	Lead: Lillooet Food Matters, SLRD, IHA Supporting: DoL, St'at'imc	Medium	Short	Requirements: Low Sources: SLRD (in-kind), IHA

1.2 Publish and distribute information about the agricultural potential of the region to encourage new farmers to establish farm businesses in the area.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Compile a map of agricultural resources for the Lillooet region with information on water access, sunshine hours, soil types, elevation, agricultural capability, zoning, and other layers. This can be done using the 2013 LUI and WDM data.	Leads: Ministry of AGRICULTURE Supporting: DoL, SGS, SLRD, Farmers	High	Medium	Requirements: High Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, NEDI
B. Create marketing materials, such as a website, for the agricultural potential of the region based on the <i>Agricultural Plan</i> . When promoting Lillooet at tourism and economic development events, include agriculture as a key local asset. District of Lillooet has started a tourism initiative and website, which this action could build upon.	Lead: Regional Tourism Advisory Committee Supporting: Farmers, Chamber of Commerce, SLRD, DoL,	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL
C. Use the map created in 1.2.A and the agricultural profile/survey results to create an online SLRD or DoL agricultural information database and interactive online mapping tool.	Lead: SLRD, AGRI Supporting: DoL, SGS	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Moderate. Long term maintenance costs will be lower than start-up. Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, NEDI

1.3 Develop strategies to enhance economic viability of the local agricultural sector.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Coordinate planting and purchasing of inputs amongst producers to reduce costs and ensure a consistent supply of farm products.	Lead: Farmers Supporting: SLRD	Low	Medium	Requirements: Low Sources: In-kind meeting space
B. Create a community food hub that contains cold storage facilities and a commercial kitchen. Funding will need to be raised by the farming community.	Lead: Farmers, Lillooet Food Matters Supporting: SLRD, DoL, St'at'imc	Medium	Long	Requirements: High Sources: Credit Union, NEDI, IHA
C. Foster connections between local farmers and organizations such as the Small Scale Food Processors Association.	Leads: Farmers and Ranchers Supporting: SSFPA	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Negligible
D. Host workshops and inspirational speakers to discuss successful farm business models during the winter (non-growing/harvest) season. Include topics such as food processing, permaculture, and bee health.	Leads: Farmers and Ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL, Lillooet Food Matters, AGRI	High	Short	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Non-profit grants
E. Connect producers who need labour with government and industry-based training programs such as commodity groups (e.g. for berry producers); Step-Up, a federal mentoring program; and SOIL apprenticeships.	Leads: AGRI, Farmers, Ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: AGRI (in kind)
F. Engage high schools and post-secondary institutions in local farmer training initiatives.	Leads: AGRI, Farmers, Ranchers, 4-H Club Supporting: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Long	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Non-profit grants
G. Create a cross-commodity Farmers Institute.	Leads: Farmers and Ranchers Supporting: AGRI	High	Short	Requirements: Negligible

Priority #2 – Developing Supportive Policies and Regulations

Concerns were raised about issues such as local zoning, access to farmland, protection of farmland, and inability to navigate local, provincial and federal government regulations. Many government policies and regulations pose challenges for farmers and understanding the interplay between various statutes, bylaws and regulations can be difficult. Some local regulations are also in question as to their effectiveness to protect farmland from development and make it accessible to farmers wanting to utilize the land. The priority is to make the local regulatory system more responsive to the needs of farmers, yet maintain adequate regulations to protect farmland. It is important to note that many provincial and federal regulations affecting agriculture are beyond the jurisdictional scope of the local and regional government in BC.

Specific concerns were expressed by the agricultural community regarding access to land, particularly smaller plots of arable agricultural land. Much of the ALR in the region consists of large plots that are partially forested and on steep slopes. Effective zoning regulations with regard to subdivision may be able to address some of these concerns and make farmland more accessible. Also, farmland access programs, such as farmland trusts and incubator farms, could help new and young farmers' access land for production.



Developing **SUPPORTIVE POLICIES** and **REGULATIONS**

Recommended Actions

2.1 Ensure that local and regional land use policies and bylaws reflect and support the vision and priorities set forth in the *Agricultural Plan*.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Include a regular review and update (as required) of zoning and OCP Bylaws and administrative policies by staff and the AAC to ensure that they reflect the <i>Agricultural Plan</i> .	Lead: SLRD, DoL Supporting: AAC	High	Long	Requirements: Low Sources: SLRD, DoL
B. Host a meeting between the St'at'imc, SLRD, DoL, and AGRI regarding the topic of cultural impact assessments for subdivision or land tenure decisions.	Lead: St'at'imc, SLRD, DoL Supporting: AGRI	High	Long	Requirements: Low Sources: In-kind (staff time)
C. Host annual meetings with the St'at'imc and farmers to discuss policies and bylaws affecting local agriculture and to review initiatives affecting agriculture.	Lead: SLRD, St'at'imc, Farmers & Ranchers Supporting: DoL	High	Ongoing	Requirements: Low
D. Hold an annual policy forum or meeting with representatives from Federal, Provincial, St'at'imc, and local government employees to discuss regulations pertaining to agriculture.	Lead: SLRD, DoL, SGS Supporting: AGRI, AAFC, Health Canada, Interior Health	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Moderate Sources: SLRD, AGRI

2.2 Work with other levels of government to ensure that all jurisdictional regulations are beneficial to producers and food production.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Consider the addition of OCP policies that advocate for agriculture and reference the <i>Agricultural Plan</i> and its associated recommended actions.	Lead: SLRD, DoL	High	Long	Requirements: Low
B. Monitor ALC/ALR policy changes and develop strategies to respond to proposed changes.	Lead: SLRD, DoL Supporting: AGRI, ALC	High	Long	Requirements: Low
C. Engage ALC and AGRI in discussions regarding regulations related to on-farm processing and the need for more flexibility around meat processing in particular.	Leads: SLRD, local farmers Supporting: ALC, AGRI	High	Medium	Requirements: Negligible
D. Partner with Interior Health and TRU to advertise and provide food safety training to local producers/processors in order for them to undertake activities that legally require specific training or certification. (Note that this is now underway)	Leads: IHA, Farmers, SSFPA, TRU Supporting: AGRI, SLRD, DoL, St'at'imc	High	Medium	Requirements: Low (courses through SSFPA) Sources: Interior Health
E. Liaise with Ministry of Agriculture staff (Farm Business Advisory Services Board) to explore support for farmers navigating provincial regulations.	Leads: AGRI, local farmers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: AGRI (in kind)



2.3 Utilize appropriate Zoning Bylaw, OCP, and RGS policy tools to minimize the impact of non-farm development on farmland.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. When updating zoning bylaws, designate land inside of the ALR and areas zoned for agriculture to be used only for agricultural activities and permit non-intensive farming on all non-ALR land.	Leads: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible Sources: SLRD
B. Minimize the negative impacts of development and transportation and infrastructure networks (roads, utilities, etc.) on farmland with appropriate zoning and design guidelines.	Leads: SLRD, DoL Supporting: ALC, Ministry of Transportation	Medium	Short	Requirements: Low Sources: SLRD
C. Report annually on the outcomes of all ALR applications (exclusions, non-farm use, subdivisions) in order to get a complete perspective as to how the various applications may alter (or have altered) the farming landscape.	Leads: SLRD, DoL Supporting: AAC, ALC	Medium	Short	Requirements: Low Sources: SLRD

D. Ensure that on-farm opportunities for processing and marketing of agricultural products are recognized in local zoning bylaws.	Lead: SLRD, DoL	High	Long	Requirements: Low
E. Develop home plate specifications to limit the size of the building footprint and siting of structures within the ALR – use provincial standards for maximum lot coverage to inform local policies.	Leads: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Low (templates available from ALC and other jurisdictions) Sources: SLRD

2.4 Encourage government and non-governmental agencies to create financial incentives to encourage agricultural use of farmland.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Investigate opportunities for regional districts and municipalities to grant property tax exemptions or reduce utility rates for agricultural land that is also designated as farm class (BCAA Class 9).	Lead: AGRI, UBCM Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Long	Requirements: Negligible
B. Investigate potential opportunities within the farm tax assessment process to provide for the inclusion of the sale of value-added products in determining primary production gross income. (Currently only the sales of raw farm products are included in the calculation of income, and this threshold is often too high for small farms to achieve farm status for tax purposes.)	Leads: AGRI, BCAA Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Long	Requirements: Negligible
C. Encourage farmers and property owners leasing their land to farmers to apply for farm tax status through the BCAA. This will reduce the annual tax rate and create more affordability in land access.	Leads: SLRD, DoL Supporting: Real Estate Industry, AGRI, ALC	High	Medium	Requirements: Negligible

2.5 Promote options to assist new and current farmers in gaining access to land and to help ensure the long-term succession and viability of farmland.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Develop a land-linking program to match land with people who want to farm.	Lead: Local farmers, Lillooet Food Matters Supporting: SLRD, DoL, real estate industry, St'at'imc	High	Medium	Requirements: Low
B. Encourage, support, and promote new co-operative living arrangements on non-ALR properties focused on food production. Investigate the feasibility of an incubator farm on publicly-owned land. This can be achieved through zoning and policy.	Leads: SLRD, DoL Supporting: AGRI	Medium	Long	Requirements: Low
C. Provide information to both farmers and non-farming ALR landowners about different types of land use agreements (licences, leases, profit-a-prendres, and memorandums of understanding) to ensure that the maximum amount of farmland is in its most productive use regardless of ownership.	Lead: Local farmers Supporting: SLRD, DoL, real estate industry	High	Medium	Requirements: Low
D. Provide access to research and information to the general public regarding alternative farm business arrangements, such as stratas, cooperatives, and corporations	Lead: SLRD, DoL Supporting: Real Estate Industry, FarmFolk/CityFolk	High	Medium	Requirements: Low
E. Assist farm families dealing with the challenge of farm succession by connecting them with professional support services and information.	Lead: AGRI Support: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Long	Requirements: Low

Priority #3 - Fostering Collaboration between the St'at'imc and the Farming Community

The St'at'imc are the original inhabitants of the territory, which includes SLRD Area B and the District of Lillooet. This *Agricultural Plan* is unique to others in BC in that the St'at'imc was involved in its development from the beginning, both through representation on the Working Group and through engagement with St'at'imc Government Services (SGS), the Lillooet Tribal Council, and the six Northern St'at'imc communities of:

T'it'q'et	Tsal'alh
Xwisten	Sekw'el'was
Xaxl'ip	Ts'kw'aylaxw

Traditional food harvesting methods, such as berry picking, fishing, and hunting, are important priorities for the St'at'imc. Several projects being led by the St'at'imc could be done in partnership with the agricultural community. Split Rock Environmental is one example of a successful local horticultural business. Future St'at'imc projects may include an agricultural pilot project (sugar beets) and/or a winery. As the St'at'imc have an inseparable connection to their land and long history within their community, it is clear that ongoing and future agricultural opportunities will need to be developed in full consideration of St'at'imc cultural priorities, as laid out in the St'at'imc Land Use Plan (2004). During discussions with members of the St'at'imc, it became clear that the relationship between St'at'imc Government Services, SLRD, and DoL is still evolving. There are key



Foster **COLLABORATION** between **ST'AT'IMC & FARMING COMMUNITY**

issues whereby communication lines will need to remain open between the St’at’imc and farmers and ranchers in order to avoid future tensions. These include (but are not limited to):

1. Land use decisions: rangeland use by livestock vs. habitat use by wildlife;
2. The need for cultural impact assessments for subdivisions or land tenure decision-making; and
3. Participation in water use planning.

In addition to the recommended actions below, there are several actions that encourage partnerships between the St’at’imc and farming and ranching communities in 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, and 5.2.

Recommended Actions

3.1 Increase communication opportunities between the St’at’imc and farmers & ranchers.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Assist the agricultural community with the development of a common local identity or brand.	Lead: St’at’imc, Farmers, Ranchers, Chamber of Commerce, Regional Tourism Advisory Committee Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Short	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Tourism BC, NEDI
B. Host a regular (annual or semi-annual) meeting between St’at’imc, local agrologists, and ranchers & farmers, to openly discuss potential issues in a proactive manner.	Leads: Northern St’at’imc communities, farmers, Supporting: SLRD, DoL, BCCA	High	Medium	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: In-kind meeting space
C. Partner with St’at’imc communities to develop online resources regarding best management practices and environmental planning for wildlife and fisheries resources in the region.	Leads: St’at’imc, farmers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: SLRD, DoL, AGRI

3.2 Develop agricultural economic development opportunities within the St'at'imc.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Explore opportunities for apprenticeships, mentoring, incubator farms, and other farm-based employment so that underemployed and unemployed St'at'imc members can gain experience and decide if farming is something they want to pursue.	Leads: St'at'imc, local farmers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Non-profit grants, IAF, SCCF
B. Consult with IAF to develop pilot projects that focus on agricultural economic development opportunities for the St'at'imc.	Leads: St'at'imc Supporting: IAF, AGRI	High	Short	Requirement: Moderate-High Sources: IAF



3.3 Strive to minimize conflict interactions between wildlife and livestock.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Participate in initiatives that seek management solutions to passively and actively deter predator populations (cougar, coyotes, bears, deer) from damaging crops and livestock.	Leads: Farmers, & Ranchers, St'at'imc, MoE, Bear Aware, MoFLNRO, AGRI Supporting: SLRD, DoL, SPCA	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: MoE, AGRI, non-profit grants
B. Consult past IAF pilot project reports to gather information and knowledge regarding best practices to minimize wildlife- agriculture conflicts.	Leads: St'at'imc, AAC, SLRD Supporting: Farmers and ranchers	High	Short	Requirement: Low Sources: In-kind (staff time)
C. Support the formation of an Agriculture-Wildlife Working Group to address and proactively manage issues pertaining to agriculture and wildlife on Crown, private, and Indian Reserve lands as they arise.	Leads: St'at'imc, Farmers, & Ranchers Supporting: SLRD, AGRI	High	Short	Requirements: Negligible
D. Consider engaging with environmental agencies and the St'at'imc to establish management protocols for harvesting wildlife to manage populations and protect food producing areas.	Leads: St'at'imc, Farmers, & Ranchers, MoE, Supporting: SLRD, DoL, SPCA	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: MoE, AGRI, non-profit grants

Priority #4 – Promoting Awareness and Education

Local retailers stated that the Lillooet and surrounding community requests and purchases local agricultural products, but also mentioned that this was a small proportion of their customer base. Consumers tend to buy and prepare what they are used to cooking and eating and the lowest priced food items. Local producers have a difficult time competing with artificially low-cost foods imported to the region, due to the externalized costs of the global marketplace. Farmers have expressed the desire to see agricultural education at the community level as well as in the local school curriculum.

Local Lillooet citizens have the capacity to become ambassadors for the agricultural community. They are able to express their support for local food to friends and family outside of the region. Educational opportunities can also be used to explain the beneficial characteristics of supporting local agricultural production.



Promoting **AWARENESS** and **EDUCATION**

Recommended Actions

4.1 Create opportunities to educate about agriculture.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Develop linkages to other business groups, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary clubs, retailers, financial institutions, restaurants, wholesalers, processors, and tourism operators to create a comprehensive communications strategy for local food.	Leads: Farmers & Ranchers, Chamber of Commerce Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Short	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism BC, NEDI
B. Coordinate regionally appropriate agritourism activities (such as trail rides) tied into other events or tourism promotion activities (Apricot Festival, Seedy Saturday, etc.).	Leads: Farmers & Ranchers, Regional Tourism Advisory Committee Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism BC
C. Encourage local businesses to show their support for local food and local producers online through social media (websites, apps, etc.). Consider developing an app for local food resources for the region or connecting the Lillooet community to existing apps and online resources.	Leads: Local businesses, Regional Tourism Advisory Committee, Farmers & Ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Chamber of Commerce, Tourism BC
D. Provide the community with objective information on the topic of GMOs. Focus on fostering a safe learning environment on the topic of GMOs while respecting all opinions.	Lead: Farmers & Ranchers, Lillooet Food Matters Supporting: AAC, SLRD	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Low
E. Develop a self-guided Farm Tour website for the Lillooet region that allow members of the public to tour different farms and highlight farming activities. This website could be hosted by DoL and/or the SLRD. The new DoL website provides one opportunity, as does another initiative called Soil Mate (https://www.soilmate.com).	Leads: Farmers & Ranchers, Regional Tourism Advisory Committee Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: IAF, SLRD, DoL, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism BC

4.2 Encourage the growth and development of school and youth-based agricultural education opportunities through farm-based service or experiential learning opportunities.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Support Lillooet Food Matters to offer school workshops on a cost-recovery basis.	Lead: Lillooet Food Matters Supporting: Farmers	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: NEDI, Vancouver Foundation, IHA
B. Utilize school curricula supported by BC Ministry of Agriculture’s Agriculture in the Classroom program.	Lead: School District Supporting: Farmers, SLRD, DoL, AGRI	Medium	Long	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Ag in the Classroom (AGRI)
C. Revive and enhance 4H programs.	Lead: BCCA, ranchers, local farmers Supporting: Other producers	Medium	Long	Requirements: Moderate Sources: AGRI, BC Agriculture Council, BCCA
D. Encourage schools to continue to participate in the BC Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program (It provides students in elementary schools two servings of fruit and vegetables for fourteen weeks in the school year).	Lead: School District, IHA, AGRI Supporting: Farmers, SLRD, DoL	Medium	Long	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Act Now BC
E. Encourage and support schools to grow food on school grounds or through partnering farms and include farming or gardening in the curriculum. (George M. Murray Elementary has a vegetable garden plot that could be used as a model).	Lead: SD Supporting: Farmers, SLRD, DoL, AGRI	Medium	Long	Requirements: Moderate Sources: Ag in the Classroom (AGRI)

Priority #5 – Supporting Sustainable Agricultural Practices

About 67% of the farmers who participated in the *Agricultural Plan* survey stated that they use organic principles in their production, while 56% said their products are naturally grown. It is clear that farmers in the region are committed to growing food in a sustainable manner. It is also evident that the wider community is interested in seeing environmentally-sound practices in the region continue to be enhanced. Issues such as: pesticide use, support for saving of seed, concerns over Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), invasive species, and the health of honeybees and other pollinators were raised by local community members. It should be noted that local and regional governments have no legal jurisdiction or ability to ban the use of chemicals or GMOs on farmland and farm activities are regulated through the provincial *Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision, and Procedure Regulation* and the *Farm Practices Protection Act (FPPA)*. Local governments can, however, encourage sustainable production practices where appropriate. Invasive species, primarily plants, have known impacts to the agriculture and livestock industry. Loss of native grasslands and forest forbs to the spread of invasive plants has led to the loss of forage for both livestock and wildlife. Many invasive species also pose health threats to livestock and wildlife due to toxins or burrs causing physical injury. Conflicts between agriculture and wildlife exist in most BC communities; however, some conflicts are even more evident in the rural Lillooet region. Wildlife such as deer, black bears, invasive bird species, wolves, and cougars can significantly impact crops and livestock production. Best management practices can help to mitigate effects of wildlife and invasive plant species and maximize the efficient use of resources. St'at'imc have also expressed the need to maintain wildlife habitat and encourage sustainable agricultural practices to support wildlife needs.



Support **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

Recommended Actions

5.1 Assist farmers with the implementation of sustainable farm practices and technologies.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Encourage participation of farmers in the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program. Through the EFP, farmers work with Advisors to create a whole farm plan geared towards enhancing the environmental health of the farm. It is voluntary and free to create the plan, and there are some financial incentives for implementing best management practices.	Lead: AGRI, ARDCorp, Farmers and Ranchers Supporting: SLRD	Medium	Short	Requirements: Negligible – High depending on level of commitment Sources: ARDCorp
B. Encourage those with challenging, environmentally sensitive and properties to consider alternative ecological farming practices such as agroforestry.	Lead: Farmers and Ranchers Supporting: AGRI, ALC	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Low Sources: AGRI, ARDCorp
C. Continue to engage and partner with the Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Council (LRISS) to control invasive species on farms.	Leads: Farmers and Ranchers, LRISS, MOTI, MoFLNRO, BC Hydro, SLRD, DoL, Supporting: SPCA	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: MoE, AGRI, non-profit grants
D. Support the health of honeybees, butterflies, and other pollinators through habitat preservation and adoption of agro-ecological principles. This could include the construction of commercial hives closer to orchards and other pollination-dependant crops. Discourage the use of pesticides and other chemicals by providing information on alternatives such as biological control methods.	Lead: Farmers and Ranchers, Lillooet Food Matters Supporting: SLRD	High	Ongoing	Requirements: Low
E. Encourage farmers to use the Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program (SR&ED), as well as other programs, to support/encourage the re-use of waste products.	Leads: Farmers, AGRI, AAFC	Low	Medium	Requirements: Negligible

5.2 Investigate options and respond proactively to wildlife and livestock interactions.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Participate in management solution initiatives to passively and actively deter predator populations (cougar, coyotes, bears, and deer) from damaging crops and livestock (such as Bear Aware). (See 3.3A for similar action)	Leads: St'at'imc, Farmers & Ranchers, MoE Supporting: SLRD, DoL, SPCA	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: MoE, AGRI, non-profit grants
B. Review past IAF pilot projects that provide research-based solutions into minimizing wildlife impacts on farms as well as farm impacts on wildlife (See 3.3B for similar action).	Leads: St'at'imc, AGRI, Farmers & Ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Negligible
C. Form a partnership between St'at'imc Government Services ecologists, AGRI range agrologists, and ranchers, to discuss issues related to wildlife mitigation on rangeland.	Leads: SGS, AGRI, ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	High	Short	Requirements: Negligible - Moderate Sources: AGRI



Priority #6 – Encouraging Water Conservation and Climate Change Preparedness

Access to water for irrigation during the dry summer months is challenging in dry regions such as Lillooet. The implementation of effective irrigation practices and water storage methods is important to ensuring that water supply does not present a barrier to food production. Access to water during summer months could be further limited with the effects of climate change. As a result of extreme weather events, farmers are expecting to have to mitigate high heat and drought in the summer and flooding during winter months. Other emergencies, such as storm events and wildfires, also increase the need for local food self-reliance. The topic of water was top-of-mind for some members within the community at the time this *Agricultural Plan* was developed in part because of concurrent projects being led by other organizations in the area. The BC Ministry of Agriculture was undertaking an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (LUI) and collecting data for a Water Demand Model (WDM), and the District of Lillooet was in the process of installing a new water system and water meters. Once completed, the LUI will provide detailed data on the types and locations of irrigation practices. Most agricultural water sources in the region are surface water based. As many farms use gravity-fed systems, there is some concern about a lack of awareness around agricultural water consumption levels and efficiencies on these properties. The draft WDM helps to answer some of these questions by building on the LUI to help estimate current and future agriculture water demands for the region. The model calculates water use on a property-by-property basis and includes data on crop types, irrigation systems, soils, and climate data. The model links water use areas with surface and groundwater source to determine future supply conditions.



Encouraging **WATER CONSERVATION** and **CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS**

Recommended Actions

6.1 Address concerns with watering restrictions, drought management strategies and water access through appropriate policies and strategies.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Conduct a regional water resources study – include info on aquifers, seasonal water flow, licensed use, and ecological requirements. This will allow inventory of available water to be matched with AGRI's WDM.	Lead: SLRD, Thompson Rivers University Supporting: DoL, St'at'imc	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Moderate Sources: SLRD, DoL, BCCAI
B. Encourage the continued development and implementation of agricultural water conservation measures. (i.e. Encourage the use of non-potable water for some farm activities.)	Lead: SLRD, DoL, farmers and ranchers Supporting: AGRI, agricultural supply industry	High	Medium	Requirements: Varies Sources: ARDCrop
C. Continue to include/consider agricultural needs in all watershed, drought, stormwater management, and groundwater management plans.	Leads: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Negligible
D. Support efforts for farmers to improve water intake systems and storage of water on their property for the purposes of farming.	Leads: SLRD, DoL, farmers and ranchers Supporting: AGRI, agricultural supply industry	High	Medium	Requirements: Varies Sources: ARDCorp
E. Promote the implementation of best management plans for irrigation and water conservation on farms through the Environmental Farm Plan and other programs.	Leads: AGRI, farmers and ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL	Medium	Ongoing	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: ARDCorp

6.2 Implement mechanisms to adapt to climate change and weather emergencies.

Actions	Key Players	Priority	Timeframe	Funding Requirements and Sources
A. Create individual farm-based plans to deal with emergency weather events (extreme drought, flooding, winter storms, and wildfires). Many resources and templates exist to help formulate these plans.	Leads: Farmers and ranchers Supporting: SLRD, DoL, AGRI, BC Emergency Response	High	Medium	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: AGRI, SLRD
B. Using GIS and mapping analysis, create a map of current fuel management, green space and fire breaks to assess the need for further fuel management to reduce the risk of agriculture resources to wildfire.	Leads: DoL, SLRD, Ministry of Forests Supporting: AGRI	High	Short	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: AGRI, SLRD, Min of Forests
C. Create a list of wildfire risk reduction resources for farmers; have hard copies of the resource list, reports, and maps available at SLRD and DoL offices and digital copies on the SLRD website.	Leads: DoL, SLRD, Ministry of Forests Supporting: AGRI	High	Medium	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: AGRI, SLRD, Min of Forests
D. Assist in producer education around climate change adaptation by hosting discussions and workshops on: drought tolerance, insurance, integrated management of pests and disease, habitat for pollinators, re-introduction of native grasses for pasturing, and using technologies that protect crops from weather damage.	Leads: SLRD, farmers Supporting: DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Low to Moderate Sources: AGRI, BCCAI
E. Complete an Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan.	Leads: SLRD, farmers and ranchers, consultants Supporting: DoL	Medium	Medium	Requirements: Moderate to High Sources: AGRI, BCCAI

Implementation Strategy

The *Agricultural Plan* is a community plan. Many of the actions put forth require human and financial resources beyond the SLRD's jurisdiction and capabilities. Roles and responsibilities for implementing the *Agricultural Plan* must be distributed and shared, preferably through an implementation body. A discussion was held with members of the Working Group regarding the optimal format for an implementation body. Several options emerged, including:

- A. Hiring a coordinator to implement the *Agricultural Plan*;
- B. Creating a volunteer-based implementation body comprised of a variety of stakeholders to steer the recommended actions;
- C. Using a hybrid approach (government + non-profit) such as the Whistler 2020 model; and
- D. Ensuring that the *Agricultural Plan* is adopted as a stand-alone *Agricultural Area Plan* bylaw by the SLRD.

It is recommended that once the *Agricultural Plan* is adopted that the Working Group evolve into the implementation body (option B, above). This implementation body

would be tasked with developing a work plan and funding plan for the high priority recommendations and actions, ideally within six months of the adoption of the *Agricultural Plan*, in order to capitalize on momentum. The work plan should span at least a two-year period to address all ten high priority (short-term or ongoing) recommendations and identify and coordinate various necessary resources. The decision whether or not to hire a coordinator to implement the *Agricultural Plan* will depend upon direction from the SLRD Board and input from the Working Group. If it is decided that an implementation coordinator is the best way to implement the *Agricultural Plan*, the implementation body will need to investigate funding sources for the coordinator's compensation. Choosing this model of implementation would therefore require that fundraising become the main role of the implementation body immediately after the *Agricultural Plan's* adoption.



The ten high priority short-term recommendations to be included in the initial implementation work plan are included in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Top ten short term priority actions.

Number	Action	Description
1	1.1A	Establish partnerships between farmers and retailers to improve communication, promote agricultural business development, spearhead agricultural initiatives, and identify and access funding opportunities.
2	1.3D	Host workshops and inspirational speakers to discuss successful farm business models during the winter (non-growing/harvest) season. Include topics such as food processing, permaculture, and bee health.
3	1.3G	Create a cross-commodity Farmers Institute
4	2.1B	Host annual meetings with the St’at’imc and farmers to discuss policies and bylaws affecting local agriculture and engage farmers in review of regulations and development affecting agriculture.
5	3.1A	Assist the agricultural community with the development of a common local identity or brand.
6	3.3B	Consult past IAF pilot project reports to gather information and knowledge regarding best practices to minimizing wildlife: agriculture conflicts.
7	3.3C	Support the formation of an Agriculture-Wildlife Working Group to address and proactively manage issues pertaining to agriculture and wildlife on Crown, private, and Indian Reserve lands as they arise.
8	4.1A	Develop linkages to other business groups, such as Chamber of Commerce, Rotary clubs, retailers, financial institutions, restaurants, wholesalers, processors, tourism operators to create a comprehensive regional food and agriculture communications strategy.
9	5.2C	Form a partnership between St’at’imc Government Services ecologists, AGRI range agrologists, and ranchers, to discuss issues related to wildlife mitigation on rangeland.
10	6.2B	Using Mapping Analysis tools, create a map of current fuel management, green space and breaks to assess the need for further fuel management to reduce the risk of agriculture resources to wildfire.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

To help guide the implementation work, a monitoring and evaluation framework is provided, which includes performance indicators. Both short-term and long-term indicators have been identified to help determine the progress of this *Agricultural Plan* (See Table 2 and 3 below).

Table 2. Short term performance indicators

SHORT TERM INDICATOR	MEASURES OF SUCCESS	EVALUATION MECHANISM
The <i>Agricultural Plan</i> receives wide support from the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SLRD Board adopts the plan. St'at'imc Northern communities adopt or endorse the plan. The District of Lillooet adopts the plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track meeting minutes to ensure that adoption or endorsement has taken place. Issue media release once all parties have expressed support for the plan.
Establish an implementation body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Either a volunteer-based group is formed or a coordinator is hired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision as to how best to manage implementation is made within 6 months of the <i>Agricultural Plan</i>'s adoption through discussions between SLRD and the Working Group.
Creation of a local agricultural brand for marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding is obtained to hire a graphic designer or other communications specialist. A brand or logo is created within the first year after the <i>Agricultural Plan</i> is adopted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The brand or logo is applied to local products in marketing and packaging. The brand or logo is communicated to visitors by local producers, retailers, and tourism operators.
Completion of the Agricultural LUI and Water Demand Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports, data, and maps are provided to the community. Note that this report is now COMPLETE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes of the research are reflected in local and regional plans and initiatives. Data and maps are used to further inform the recommended actions within the <i>Agricultural Plan</i>.
Increased communications between and within all components of the local food system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing distribution channels are employed to market products within/outside the region. Retailers & producers develop contracts. Processors and meat producers explore local capacity and expansion opportunities. Crop selection is increasingly based on local market demands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings are held between distributors and producers. Meetings are held between retailers and producers. Producers specialize to capitalize on economies of scale. Meetings are held between producers across various scales of production to explore local storage and processing opportunities. Local awareness and education piece; local consumers buy local products.

Table 3. Long term performance indicators

LONG TERM INDICATOR	MEASURABLE INDICATORS OF SUCCESS	EVALUATION MECHANISM
Increased economic development opportunities for food production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and non-government funds are secured for new initiatives. • Increased agricultural investments dollars are being brought into the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the number of new food and agriculture-related projects in the region (once the Plan is adopted) • Track the progress of existing establishments and farms.
Increased partnerships between the St’at’imc and non-St’at’imc communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New projects, committees, and/or meetings held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the number of St’at’imc agricultural projects in the area. • Track the number of joint meetings held between St’at’imc and non-St’at’imc communities.
Increased value-added facilities located in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warehousing options for storage has increased. • Wine tasting and microbreweries are established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the number of processing facilities available locally. • Track the number and type of value-added food and farm products created locally.
Increased acreage in crop production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of acres of cleared land within the ALR and land in production increases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track forested vs. cleared ALR areas. • Track the number of farms and acres in production.
Increased diversity of farm products for sale locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of producers by commodity group is increased. • Increase in contracts between retailers and growers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory the diversity of products made available locally through retailers and at the farm gate.
New farmers are attracted to the region and start new agricultural endeavours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of farmers in the region increases. • The average age of farmers in the region decreases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track the number and profile of farmers in the region.
Enhanced farm profitability through new marketing opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue per farm and per acre has increased. • Number and type of markets for sale of agricultural products has increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review agricultural census data in 5 and 10 years. • Conduct a survey of marketing opportunities in 2018 to gauge progress.
Facilitation of the transportation and distribution of goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in retailers and growers has resulted in distribution opportunities. • Ability of local restaurants, cafes, and bistros to easily acquire local ingredients has increased. • Ability to purchase SLRD Area B/ Lillooet/ St’at’imc products in other communities has increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor how many empty food trucks are leaving Lillooet. • Assess the availability of SLRD Area B, District of Lillooet, and St’at’imc products in retail outlets and restaurants in Kamloops, Whistler, and Vancouver.
Recognition and support for local farming by the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales of products by local farmers and local businesses have increased. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of consumers to determine support of local agriculture and level of sales in 2018 and compare to 2013 survey for baseline.

Appendix I: Plan Area Map

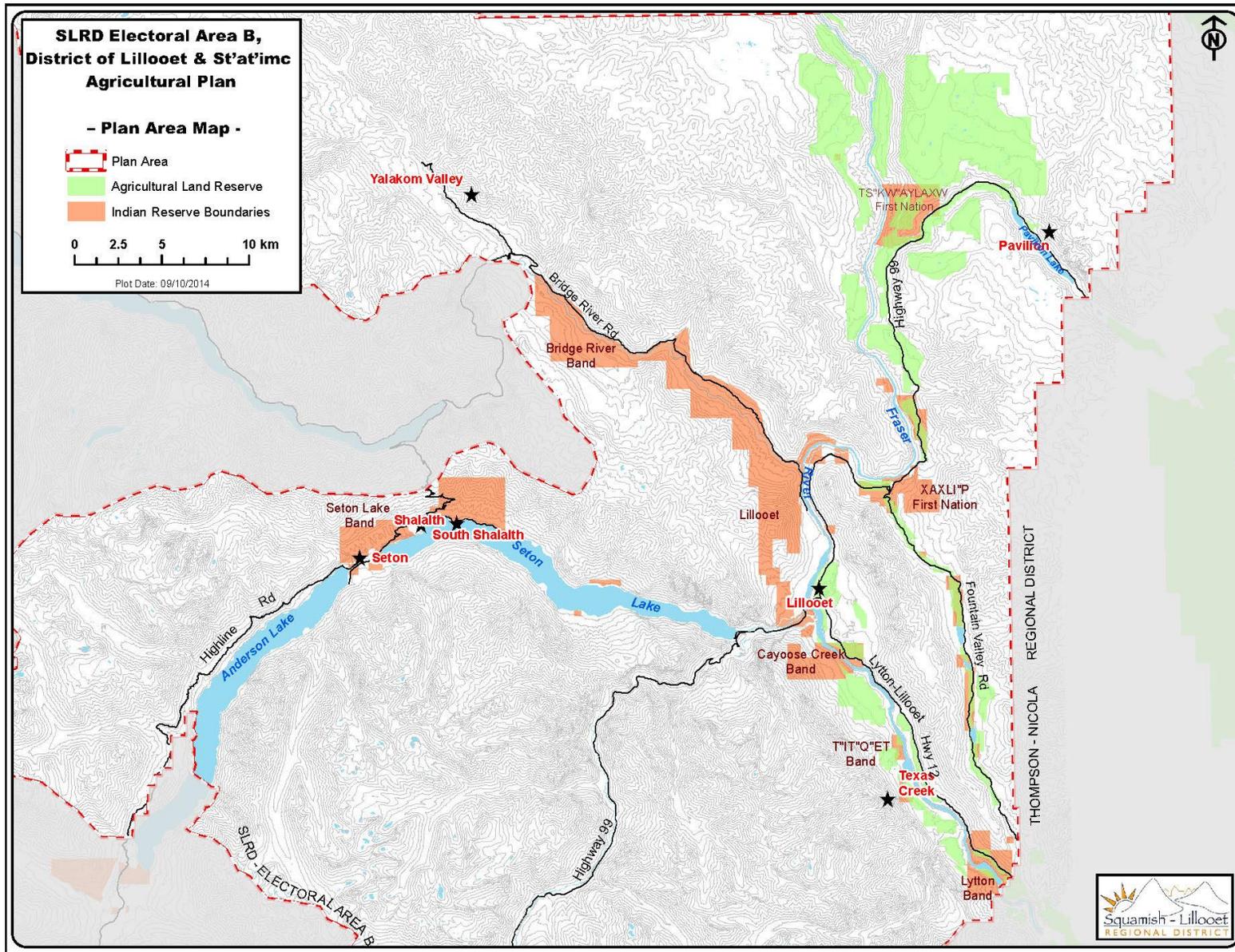


Figure 1. Plan Area Map

Appendix II: Funding Opportunities

In order to implement the recommendations presented above, funding will need to be sourced. While some funding may be generated through the SLRD, outside sources of funding have been identified to support specific initiatives within the implementation plan as noted above. More information on funding opportunities is provided below.

Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF)

The Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) strategically invests federal and provincial funds to support innovative projects that benefit the agri-food industry in BC. IAF offers a wide range of funding for industry groups and municipalities in funding categories such as animal industries, plant industries, processing industries, environmental issues, emerging sectors and other. Start-up funding is not available for individuals, but specific funding programs are available within each category to deal with specific industry issues and enhance the sectors. Recent funding includes Buy Local programs, First Nations food branding, pollinator preservation projects, and more.

The IAF's *Food and Beverage Processing Initiative* can be used to address the key issue of inadequate processing infrastructure. Funding is available for projects that match one or more of these strategic priorities:

- Enhance the competitive position of BC food and beverage processors;
- Build BC's reputation as a leader in health and lifestyle-oriented products;
- Build business relationships and collaboration with value chain partners; and
- Enhance communications and coordination among industry stakeholders.

Another funding program that could be beneficial is the *Emerging Sectors Initiative*. IAF classifies an emerging sector as those that have emerging business opportunities; leadership, vision and capacity to increase sectoral contributions to the provincial economy and provincial five-year annual average market receipts of less than \$10 million. Examples of emerging sectors include: small scale/lot agriculture, natural health products, aboriginal agriculture, agritourism and direct farm marketing, apiculture, small-scale food processing and more. Projects that address gaps in scientific knowledge, technology adaptation and transfer, skills, business development, collaboration with partners and pre-commercialization exploration may be eligible.

Information on each of these initiatives can be found on the IAF website at http://www.iafbc.ca/funding_available.

Growing Forward Agricultural Policy Framework

The Growing Forward Agricultural Policy Framework, under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), is a program to increase the profitability of the agricultural sector in Canada. The three strategic outcomes that are intended through this program are:

1. A competitive and innovative sector

2. A sector that contributes to society's priorities
3. A sector proactive in managing risks

Programs that are relevant to farmers in the SLRD are the: Agri-Environmental Risk Assessment/On-Farm Sustainable Agricultural Practices (BMPs) Program, Enterprise Infrastructure Traceability Program, Farm Business Advisory Services Program, Food Safety System Implementation (FSSI) (Processor and Producer) Programs, Community Development Program, Building Rural and Northern Partnerships Program and the Co-operative Development Initiative. However this list changes regularly so should be checked for updates.

Agri-Environmental Risk Assessment (EFPS) / On-Farm Sustainable Agricultural Practices (BMPs)

The intent of this program is to enhance environmental farm stewardship and raise awareness amongst producers. To accomplish this, a broad-based, voluntary, staged and producer driven Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program was developed. The first phase of this program involves the creation of a plan with a planning advisor at no cost to the producer. Once actions have been identified, some financial incentives exist for implementation of these actions. This program is administered by the BC Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCorp).

Farm Business Advisory Services Program

There are two tiers to this program, which provides support in increasing farm profitability. The first tier provides consulting services to develop a basic farm financial assessment at only \$100 to the producer and tier two covers 85% of the costs of consulting services for specialized business planning to adopt farm business management practices in strategies in nine management areas including: business strategy, success planning, marketing strategy, business structure, production economics, risk assessment, human resources, value-added ventures and financial management.

Food Safety System Implementation (FSSI) (Processor) Program

Administered by the BC Small-Scale Food Processor Association (SSFPA), the objective of this program is to increase the number of non-federally registered food processing operations with Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) food safety systems in their operations.

For more information:

<https://www.ardcorp.ca/ardcorp>

Northern Development Initiative Trust

Northern Development offers a range of funding programs suited to a diverse set of economic development priorities in central and northern British Columbia. Themes include business development, community development, and capacity building.

For more information:

<http://www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca>

Lillooet Community Foundation

The Lillooet Community Foundation was established in 2007 as an endowment fund for the District of Lillooet. Start-up funds for the Foundation were provided jointly by the District of Lillooet and Northern Development Initiatives Trust. While the fund will continue to grow through private donations, the interest earned will be used to fund grant applications from community organizations for projects that will benefit residents, leaving a lasting legacy for the community.

Twice yearly the Committee will receive and review grant applications from not-for-profit organizations and make recommendations to Council regarding approval of the applications. In addition the Committee will take on fundraising responsibilities and look for ways to promote the fund.

Application Forms are available for funding of up to \$1,000 per approved project.

<http://www.lillooetbc.com/City-Hall/Lillooet-Community-Foundation.aspx>

Interior Savings Credit Union

The ISCU donation program focus is on youth, health, and/or economic growth within the Okanagan and Thompson Valley. All requests for donations or sponsorship must be submitted online. All applications for donations and sponsorship must be:

- Submitted by community-based, non-profit, volunteer, public service, or charitable organizations.
- Focused on programs or events serving the areas of youth, health and/or economic development.
- To serve the communities of the Okanagan and Thompson Valley (includes Lillooet).
- Submitted at least eight (8) weeks in advance of the event or project.

All applications must clearly demonstrate how the project or event will work toward the betterment of our community, benefit the greatest number of people for the longest period of time, provide ISCU employees the opportunity to participate and contribute as volunteers, measure results, and provide positive economic spin-off for the credit union or the local economy (for example, an event that draws a significant amount of tourists to the community).

For more information:

<https://www.interiorsavings.com/Community/Corporatesponsorship/>

CIBC Community Grants

CIBC's community granting aims to assist Canadians in need through skills development, including financial literacy and employment opportunities; increased access to community

services and promoting equality and diversity. Funding is available for registered charities or non-profit organizations.

More information is available at:

<https://www.cibc.com/ca/inside-cibc/in-your-community.html>

Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program

The FMNCP provides low-income families and seniors who are enrolled in participating cooking and skill-building programs with coupons each week to spend at their local farmers' market. Participants can use the coupons to purchase eligible products including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, nuts, dairy and fresh cut herbs. Within cooking and skill-building sessions, participants learn to cook healthy, nutritious meals using locally procured farm products. Farmers Markets can apply directly to the BC Association of Farmers Markets to be involved in the program and must partner with a local social service agency for delivery.

For more information:

<http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/resources/nutrition-coupon-program>

BC Gaming Community Gaming Grants

Government gaming grants allow eligible non-profit organizations to apply for gaming revenues to support a broad range of programs and services. Responsibility for the gaming grants program lies with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development; the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch distributes the grants. Organizations receiving community gaming grants must use their grant funds for approved, eligible purposes. Programs must have been in operation for at least 12 months prior to application. (In other words, a grant will not be awarded for a program that is being offered for the first time.) To receive a grant, the program must fall into one of the following sectors:

- Arts and Culture;
- Sport;
- Environment;
- Public Safety;
- Human and Social Services; or
- Parent Advisory Councils and District Parent Advisory Councils. (These organizations are aligned with schools.)

For more information:

<https://www.gaming.gov.bc.ca/grants/community-gaming.htm>

First Nations Agricultural Lending Association (FNALA)

FNALA provides financing for Aboriginal agricultural and agri-food producers. FNALA is an Aboriginal Capital Corporation (ACC) created in 1988 with the exclusive mandate to provide

financing for agriculture and/or agriculturally related projects on and off reserve, to individuals who are Status, Non-Status, Metis and Inuit, in the Province of BC. Financial assistance is offered through loans, mortgages, lines of credit, administration of programs and grants, and assisting clients in establishing credit.

More information:

<http://www.fnala.com>

New Relationship Trust

The mission of the trust is to invest in First Nations in British Columbia to assist them in building their own capacity as envisioned by the New Relationship. Direct support funding is intended to help First Nation communities build capacity in the areas that they need it most. A total of \$1.5 million has been allocated for direct support in 2014-2015. Funding is available in two streams:

- A maximum of \$25,000 per project is available to individual First Nations
- A maximum of \$50,000 per project is available to groups of three First Nations who are collaborating on a capacity building initiative.

More information:

<http://www.newrelationshiptrust.ca>

First Nations Inuit Youth Employment Strategy

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's (AANDC's) First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) supports initiatives to provide First Nations and Inuit youth with work experience, information about career options, and opportunities to develop skills to help them gain employment and develop careers. The FNIYES has an annual budget of \$24 million. Since the launch of this strategy, close to 150,000 opportunities have been provided to First Nations and Inuit youth. More than 600 First Nations and Inuit communities design and implement projects each year. The First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) supports First Nations and Inuit youth, between the ages of 15 and 30, who are ordinarily resident on reserve or in recognized communities.

For more information:

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100033607/1100100033608>

Real Estate Foundation (REF)

The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REF) is a non-profit corporation that receives interest from pooled or “unassigned” trust deposits held by real estate brokers and uses the funds to support real estate related issues such as education, research, law reform and activities intended for the public or professional good including environmental issues related to land and water (REF, 2012). The mission of the Foundation is “to support sustainable real estate and land use practices for the benefit of British Columbians.” The three grant program focus areas are the

Built Environment, Fresh Water Sustainability and Sustainable Food Systems, with the most effective projects leading to on-the-ground change.

The **Sustainable Food System** focus area involves initiatives that remove barriers or contribute to new approaches and practices in sustainable food systems in BC. These could include land use planning, policy, regulation, design, mapping and feasibility studies within the urban, peri-urban and rural areas of BC. The foundation is particularly interested in:

- Integration of sustainable food systems into community planning, urban design, and neighbourhood planning;
- Regional approaches to food systems planning;
- Inter-relationships between food systems, ecosystems, natural capital, and the built environment; and
- Tools, policies, and legal mechanisms to support access to land for all activities required in a sustainable food system.

More information and past projects can be found on REF's grants website at <http://www.refbc.com/grants/general-grant-program>

Interior Health Authority

The IHA provides funding for projects that promote health and wellness and encourage marginalized and vulnerable members of the community to play an active role in their own health. It is also responsible for FOODSAFE courses. The Healthy Communities program may also provide funding support for food security and/or food safety projects.

<http://www.interiorhealth.ca>

Vancouver Foundation

The Vancouver Foundation is the largest of Canada's 180 community foundations. Endowment funds are set up that can be dedicated to charitable purposes and a portion of the income generates from the fund is donated as grants to eligible charities. The Vancouver Foundation supports growth and innovation through project-based grants for new initiatives that are community self-directed and lead to measurable and sustainable impacts.

Applications must: demonstrate commitment from applicants and partner organizations, link to the organizations' mandate and strategic plan, build upon community strengths, show evidence of collaboration, funded by 50% or more from other sources, involve through affected by the proposal in the development of the proposal, and use, enhance, mobilize or expand on the skills, capacities and assets of local people and communities.

Only registered charities are eligible to apply for funding the following applicable project areas: animal welfare; arts and culture; children, youth and families; community-based health research; education; environment; health and social development; and youth philanthropy. For more information please visit: <http://www.vancouverfoundation.ca/grants/index.htm>.

Vancity Credit Union

Although Vancity does not currently fund projects in the Lillooet area, the geographic range is reviewed on an ongoing basis and as requests for funding is received from other communities.

Vancity Credit Union offers a variety of funding programs for charitable, non-profit organizations. The **Community Project Grants** are offered three times per year for up to \$15,000 for projects that focus on people, planet and places. These projects must show people how to build their wealth, create a sustainable place to live or invest for positive change in the community (Vancity, 2012). Projects that allocate resources to marginalized individuals and groups and support them in decision making, program development and delivery are preferred. Grants of this nature could be used to support workshops on agricultural topics such as indigenous food sovereignty and food production and preservation skills.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.vancity.com/AboutVancity/InvestingInCommunities/Grants/CommunityProjectGrants/>

Vancity also recently started a **Small Growers Loan** program. The program was established to “help stimulate a viable and sustainable local food system”. Business loans up to \$75,000 are available to small growers, who are trying to get off the ground. Small growers are characterized as:

- Farming under 50 acres in a rural or urban setting
- An individual owner, co-operative owner or leaseholder

Loan approval is based on character, farming training or experience, skills and knowledge and the potential of the business plan. More information can be found at:

<https://www.vancity.com/BusinessBanking/Financing/Loans/SmallBusinessAndStartup/SmallGrowersFund/>

Vancity Community Foundation

Vancity Community Foundation, established in 1989, works towards enriching community through gathering together community resources for support of non-profit social enterprises, community owned real estate and collaborative approaches to change. The development of agricultural social enterprises, such as food and beverage processing, could be something to investigate. More information can be found here:

http://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/s/strategic_programs.asp.

Farm Credit Canada (FCC)

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is the leading national agricultural lender. Their mission is “to enhance rural Canada by providing specialized and personalized business and financial services and products to farming operations, including family farms, and to those businesses in rural Canada, including small and medium—sized businesses, that are businesses related to farming”. FCC

offers financing and loans for both producers and agribusinesses, as well as start-up loans for young farmers.

FCC also offers funding for non-profit organizations for capital projects between \$5,000 and \$25,000 through the FCC AgriSpirit Fund. Past projects have included hospitals and medical centres, childcare facilities, fire and rescue equipment, playgrounds, food banks, libraries, recreation centres and community gardens. More information about this fund can be found at: <https://www.fac-fcc.ca/en/in-your-community/giving-back/fcc-agrispirit-fund.html>

Evergreen

Evergreen was established in 1991 with the mandate to engage “Canadians in creating and sustaining dynamic outdoor spaces – in schools, communities and homes” (Evergreen, 2012). Evergreen is the leading national funder and facilitator of local, sustainable greening projects in schoolyards, parks and communities through the Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds Grants, Evergreen Common Grounds Grants and the Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants.

The **Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds Grants** provide funding for schools to create outdoor classrooms and food gardens. Schools can apply directly twice per year.

The **Walmart-Evergreen Green Grants** are available up to \$10,000 for non-profit organizations looking to employ community-based restoration and stewardship initiatives in urban and urbanizing areas such as naturalization, restoration and stewardship and community food gardens.

<http://www.evergreen.ca/get-involved/funding-opportunities/>

Farm to School (F2S) Program

The Farm to School (F2S) Salad Bar Program was originally established in BC as an initiative of the BC Healthy Living Alliance (BCHLA) and is managed and administered by the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC). The goal of the program is to connect schools with local farms to serve healthy meals in school cafeterias and classrooms. The objectives of the program are:

- To increase fruit and vegetable consumption amongst participating school aged children;
- To increase student knowledge about the local food system, local foods, and nutritional health;
- To enhance student skills in the areas of food production, processing and serving;
- To strengthen local farm, school, and aboriginal partnerships;
- To strengthen the local food economy; and
- To develop promising practice models that are self-financing, ecofriendly and have the potential to be implemented elsewhere.

The F2S Program does not offer direct financial support, but they do provide numerous instructional resources on their website and support of their program staff in establishing new F2S Programs. More information on this program can be found at:

<http://www.phabc.org/modules.php?name=Farmtoschool>

Community Futures

Community Futures provides support services for individuals wanting to start, expand, franchise, or sell a business in rural areas of BC.

Services include business counselling and planning, workshops, training, loans and other investing.

<http://www.communityfutures.org/>

Appendix III: Online Resources for Farmers and Ranchers

Business Planning and Farm Start-Up:

- FarmStart - <http://www.farmstart.ca/resources/> (A great compilation of farm start-up resources)
- Ontario Business Structure Resources: Growing Your Farm Profits - <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/gyfp/businessstructure.htm>
- Whole Farm Plan Guide - <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Whole-Farm-Plan-Guide.pdf>
- New Farm Start-Up Guide - http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/810202-1_New_Farm_Start-Up_Guide.pdf
- One Stop BC Business Registry - <http://www.bcbusinessregistry.ca/> (Where you register your business name and incorporate if you choose to do so)
- Haliburton Community Organic Farm - <http://haliburtonfarm.org/wp/> (An example of a co-op farm that leases small plots to new farmers)
- Lease Templates - http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/structure_leases.htm (Example business management structures and some templates for farm business arrangements)
- Farm Classification (farm tax status) - <http://www.bcasessment.ca/public/Fact%20Sheets/Classifying%20Farm%20Land.aspx>

Farming Magazines

- Country Life in BC - <http://www.countrylifeinbc.com/>
- Small Farm Canada Magazine - <http://smallfarmcanada.ca/>
- Beef in BC Magazine - <http://www.cattlemen.bc.ca/beefinbc/default.htm?RD=1>

Soils Resources and Testing Labs

- The Nature and Properties of Soils - Nyle C. Brady & Ray R. Weil (Can order this over Amazon)
- Neal Kinsey - Kinsey's Agricultural Services- <http://www.kinseyag.com/>
- Crop Services International - Non-Toxic Farming Handbook - <http://www.cropservicesintl.com/>
- Exova Lab - <http://www.exova.ca/> (based in the Lower Mainland)
- MB Laboratories - <http://www.mblabs.com/> (based in Sidney)

Mapping Resources

- iMap BC - <http://webmaps.gov.bc.ca/imfx/imf.jsp?site=imapbc> (can find some registered wells on this site)
- SLRD Mapping
<http://www.slrd.bc.ca/siteengine/ActivePage.asp?PageID=9>

Farm Planning and Production Guides

- First Nations Agriculture Business Management:
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/FNAGRI/FN_Agriculture.html
- First Nations Agricultural Lending Association (Kamloops): <http://www.fnala.com/#>
- Planning for Profit Budgets - <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/budgets/>
- BC Farm Business Advisory Services -
http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/FB_Advisory_Services.html
- Environmental Farm Plan - <http://www.bcac.bc.ca/ardcorp/program/environmental-farm-plan-program>
- BC Ministry of Agriculture Production Guides -
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/prodguide.htm>
- Oregon State University Vegetable Production Guide -
<http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/vegetable-production-guides>
- Pacific Northwest University Production Guides -
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/results.php?cat=Agriculture>
- Certified Organic Price List -
<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/services/prices.html>
- National Certified Organic Program Standards -
<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/index.php> (The standards and the Permitted Substances List can be found on this site)

Marketing

- North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association Conference -
<http://www.nafdma.com/PNW2013/>
- BC Association of Farmers Markets - <http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/> (They sometimes offer courses in marketing)
- Small Scale Food Processors Association - <https://www.ssfpa.net> (online food directory and many other resources)