

B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program

2026 Program Guide



**Sustainable Canadian
Agricultural Partnership**



innovate BC



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Canada

Led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the program is funded under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five year (2023-2028) federal-provincial-territorial initiative to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. The program is delivered through Innovate BC.

B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program

Program Guide

| | |
|--|----|
| Sections | |
| Program Overview..... | 3 |
| Background..... | 3 |
| Key Dates..... | 3 |
| Applicants..... | 4 |
| Eligible Applicants..... | 4 |
| Ineligible Applicants..... | 4 |
| Eligible Activities & Expenses..... | 5 |
| Funding Ratio..... | 5 |
| Innovative Labour-Saving Technologies..... | 5 |
| Examples of Eligible Technology:..... | 6 |
| Ineligibility..... | 6 |
| Ineligible Expenses..... | 7 |
| Ineligible Purchases..... | 7 |
| Examples of Ineligible Technology..... | 8 |
| Applications..... | 10 |
| Application Process..... | 10 |
| Adjudication and Assessment..... | 10 |
| Adjudication Criteria..... | 11 |
| Project Award & Outcomes Reporting..... | 13 |
| Contracting and Awards..... | 13 |
| Awards..... | 13 |
| Unsuccessful applications..... | 13 |
| Funding Agreement..... | 13 |
| Outcomes Reporting..... | 14 |
| Data Privacy..... | 14 |

Program Overview

Background

The B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program (the Program) is a competitive program and funding is not guaranteed. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects focused on the adoption of labour-saving technologies to use on farm that are innovative and first of their kind in Canada, British Columbia (B.C.) or represent novel use within a commodity sector or region.

The Program is led by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) and is funded under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), a five year (2023-2028) federal-provincial-territorial initiative to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. Innovate BC, through its Integrated Marketplace Initiative, is delivering this program on behalf of the Ministry.

The Program provides cost-shared funding to eligible applicants to adopt new technologies on-farm that will enhance their profitability, productivity, and/or efficiency. The fourth intake of the Program, launching on **February 24, 2026**, will continue to focus on new technologies that address labour-intensive tasks.

The Ministry understands that high upfront costs are a primary hurdle for producers to explore or trial new tools, and that accessing large amounts of capital needed to implement new tools and technologies can be prohibitive.

This Program aims to strengthen B.C.'s agriculture sector through adoption of new technologies onto farms. New technology could include, but is not limited to, a newly created technology that differs significantly from existing technologies in-use, an existing technology that is modified to meet different requirements, or an existing technology that is implemented in different situations. These technologies or equipment must be viable and commercially available for purchase.

Key Dates

- **February 24, 2026:** Application intake opens
- **April 6, 2026:** Application intake closes
- **June 1, 2026:** Funding award decisions to be shared with applicants
- **March 20, 2027:** All technologies/products must be delivered to the farm

Applicants

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be based in B.C.
- be appropriately registered, licensed and/or certified to conduct business in B.C.
- have a minimum of two years in operation
- made no less than \$50,000 in annual revenue during the previous two years from the production (farm, grow, raise) of primary B.C. agriculture commodities (e.g., fruit, vegetables, grains, livestock)
 - the Ministry reserves the right to waive the minimum farm revenue requirement for Indigenous applicants
 - for farmers who have experienced crop loss due to weather or other factors beyond their control that has impacted their revenues in the two years prior to applying, exceptions to these revenue requirements will be made if they can demonstrate they have reached the \$50k threshold for two of the past five years. If so, the funding cap will be applied based on the revenue value prior to crop loss

The following applicant types are eligible for this Program:

1. **Agriculture producers** (i.e., farmers, growers, or ranchers) of primary agriculture commodities (including ornamentals/tree farms)
2. **Indigenous businesses or entrepreneurs** that are majority-owned by Indigenous individuals or communities (at least 51%) and produce primary agricultural commodities or engage in traditional food production practices

Ineligible Applicants

The following applicants are ineligible for this Program:

- operations that produce or process health or nutrition supplements, or pet food
- food and beverage processors, wholesalers, distributors, farm input suppliers, restaurants and other food service establishments
- unlicensed, unregistered, or uninspected facilities
- food packing operations located off-farm
- aquaculture and seafood production/processing businesses

- any other business that does not fall within the scope of eligible applicants in this Program Guide

Eligible Activities & Expenses

Funding Ratio

Per distinct business and production location per funding call:

- maximums:
 - Up to 65% of the cost of technology can be covered by the Program – up to \$100,000, with at least 35% cash contribution from the Applicant; Applicants must not use other government funding sources to cover the minimum Applicant contribution amount
 - Maximum funding amount is \$100,000
- minimum funding amount is \$1,000

Innovative Labour-Saving Technologies

This program supports the adoption of commercially available, labour-saving technologies on farms. These technologies should be new to Canada, B.C., or a specific commodity sector or region. The goal is to enhance farm profitability, productivity, and/or efficiency.

This program aims to support the ability of farming agriculture businesses to grow, raise, harvest, pack, or store crops and animals more profitably, productively and/or efficiently through labour-saving technologies.

Labour-saving technology for this program means:

- technology that reduces the hours spent on a particular task and/or
- technology that increases the productivity per worker, e.g., implementing a new piece of equipment that has advanced capabilities to speed up the pace of the worker or increase the output from the worker by streamlining specific actions that the worker takes, such as how the autonomous picking platform works

New technology could include, but is not limited to, a newly created technology that differs significantly from existing technologies in-use, an existing technology that is modified to meet different requirements, or an existing technology that is implemented in different situations. These technologies or equipment must be new to the applicant, viable and commercialized (TRL level 9). This would include technologies that are readily commercially available, and/or have been successfully tested and proven to work in its final form or iteration under real-life and operational conditions.

Examples of Eligible Technology:

Autonomous Equipment/Robotics:

Technologies that operate independently and adapt to their environment.

- Autonomous weeding equipment
- Autonomous transplanting systems
- Autonomous supply delivery systems
- Autonomous harvesters
- Autonomous sorting at harvest

Machinery:

Technologies that perform specific tasks with minimal but some human interaction.

- Automated grading and sorting machines
- Automated pruning/tying equipment
- Automated stacking and dumping equipment

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

AI and machine learning technologies that enable systems to adapt and make decisions or predictions or otherwise result in labour savings.

- AI systems for optical sorting
- AI systems for monitoring of livestock

Farm Business Management Tools:

Technologies that assist in planning, analyzing, and optimizing the operational aspects a farm and result in labour savings.

- Software that helps track farm activities
- Decision support systems to optimize farm operations

Smart Sensors and Monitoring Equipment:

Devices that collect and analyze data in real-time to optimize agricultural processes, enable faster decision making, remote control or management, or otherwise result in labour savings.

- Smart camera-guided systems
- Smart temperature sensing
- Sap flow sensors
- Virtual fencing collars and GPS ear tags for livestock
- Health monitoring for livestock via sensors

Other Technologies: New and emerging technologies that do not fall under the categories above, but that would result in substantial labour savings when implemented.

Ineligibility

Before you apply, check that the technology and costs you want reimbursed by the Program are not ineligible. The lists below are not exhaustive, and Applicants are encouraged to contact Program Management (BCOFTAP@innovatebc.ca) to confirm if a technology and/or expense is eligible.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are:

- leasing costs
- maintenance and repair costs
- fees for permits, approvals, or legal activities
- costs of ongoing activities
- financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees, and charges
- extended warranties on equipment, electronics, or technology purchases
- expenses related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing
- purchases made before application is approved, or expenses after the project completion date unless consent is received from the Program
- GST on the technology purchase

Ineligible Purchases

The Program does not cover the purchases mentioned below. However, please get in touch with Program Management to confirm if a particular purchase qualifies, especially if a detailed rationale can be provided on how the purchase is an innovative labour-saving solution that is also new to Canada, B.C., a specific commodity sector, or a region.

- items that are commonly used for recreational or non-agricultural purposes (e.g., iPads, TVs, and recreational drones)
- activities related to aquaponic food production, or to aquaculture, seaweed, fish and seafood production and processing
- new building construction including sheds, barns, or storages (for products or by-products)
- drones for spraying pesticides
- infrastructure such as closed environment structures, greenhouses and poly tunnels
- lighting, aeroponics technology, or irrigation systems (e.g., piping)
- plant propagation and growing media
- subscriptions for management software or apps after the first year
- used equipment

- technologies that would be funded through the activities outlined in the [Beneficial Management Practices Program](#)*
- technology that is non-compliant with all federal and provincial laws and regulations
- purchases made before application is approved (this includes deposits, signature of purchase orders, or any other initiation of the purchase), or expenses after the project completion date unless consent is received from the Program
- purchases of common technologies that are already widely used in the specific sector (unless they offer significantly novel features or functionalities that innovatively address repetitive and labour-intensive tasks or present a labour-saving solution that is new to Canada, B.C., a specific commodity sector, or a region)

Examples of Ineligible Technology

Ineligible common technologies that are Industry Standard** or are funded by other programs, including the [Beneficial Management Practices \(BMP\) Program](#):

Crop Specific

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • machine harvesters (Berries) • U-tunnels/high tunnels (Berries, Grapes) • basic equipment for washing, sorting, or freezing (Berries/Tree Fruits) • fogging systems, evaporative cooling systems such as cooling walls/towers (Greenhouse Vegetables/Floriculture/Cannabis) • frost fans/wind machines (Grapes, Tree Fruits) • wind machines (Tree Fruit) • reflective material for colour development, roof and curtain walls (Tree Fruit) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human tractor-driven cultivation/transplanters (Field Vegetables) • climate control automation, HVAC systems, LED lighting (Greenhouse Vegetables/Floriculture/Cannabis) • carbon dioxide supplementation systems (Greenhouse Vegetables/Cannabis) • basic and conventional equipment related to sorting and packing (Cannabis) • basic and conventional mechanical transplanters, harvesters; trimming, and drying equipment (Greenhouse Vegetables/Cannabis) |
|---|--|

Livestock Specific

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walk-in freezers (Beef) • milking robots, non-AI animal behavioural analysis/monitoring technology (Dairy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • autonomous manure collection systems (Dairy) <p><i>continued on page 9</i></p> |
|---|--|
-

Livestock Specific *continued*

- feed pushers, misters, or soakers, mattresses that contain water to reduce heat (Dairy)
- conventional cow monitoring collars, ear tags, pedometers (Dairy/Beef)
- non-AI climate monitoring/control, ventilation, cooling, heat exchangers, improved insulation (Poultry)
- automated feeders, egg collection, manure systems (Poultry)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>General Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conventional accounting software such as QuickBooks | <p><u>Traceability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systems, infrastructure and technologies |
| <p><u>Pest management equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alterations to sprayers • new sprayers • pest information collection and monitoring • precision guidance applications of pesticides/residuals | <p><u>Fuel efficient motors and equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacement of fossil fuel driven equipment or motors with electrical equipment or motors • replacement or transition to fuel-efficient equipment |
| <p><u>Nutrient, fertilizer, and waste management equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • composting structures, specific equipment components for land application of fertilizer • fertigation (including perennial and annual crops), precision guidance applications – GPS nutrients, low disturbance placement of seed and fertilizer, land application of agricultural by-products | |
| <p><u>Water management and irrigation equipment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • irrigation system management and irrigation scheduling (incl. automation equipment and software; water meters, backflow prevention devices, or other flow-measuring devices) | |

****Proposals that include technologies mentioned above will still be considered if the technology requested:**

- has substantially novel features or functionalities that address repetitive and labour-intensive tasks in an innovative way; and
- is an innovative labour-saving solution that is also new to Canada, B.C., a specific commodity sector, or a region

Please contact Program Management at BCOFTAP@innovatebc.ca if you have questions about the eligibility of a specific technology that meets the two requirements above.

Applications

Application Process

The B.C. On-Farm Technology Adoption Program is a competitive program and funding is not guaranteed. Applicants are encouraged to submit projects focused on the adoption of labour-saving technologies for use on farm that are innovative and first of their kind in Canada, British Columbia (B.C.) or represent novel use within a commodity sector or region.

Applicants for all technology categories will be required to submit a funding application online through Innovate BC's Integrated Marketplace Program and Submission [portal](https://integratedmarkets.smapply.io/) (<https://integratedmarkets.smapply.io/>) during the call period, **February 24 to April 6, 2026**. All applicants will be required to provide:

- annual organization revenues from the previous two years, specifically from the production of (e.g., farm, grow, raise) primary B.C. agriculture commodities (e.g., fruit, vegetables, grains, livestock). Organization revenues related to other activities must not be included
- CRA Business Registration number
- confirmation of quote(s) from the technology supplier for the purchase to substantiate the funding request amount and delivery timeline(s)
- confirmation of a proposed delivery date(s) for the items to be purchased, once an application is approved (note: approval decisions will be communicated to applicants in June); The latest acceptable date for delivery is March 20, 2027)
- an estimate of the hours that the technology will save for your business operations
- an estimate of the service life of the technology from the company
- an estimate of the anticipated payback period for the investment

Adjudication and Assessment

Submitted applications will be received and reviewed by Innovate BC. All applications received will be evaluated based only on the information submitted and will not be considered if they do not meet application eligibility criteria or are incomplete.

Fully completed applications submitted by **April 6, 2026**, will be reviewed to ensure they meet basic eligibility criteria and will be further assessed against criteria set out by the Ministry to allocate available cost share funding to projects best aligned with the Program objectives.

Adjudication Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed using a competitive review process and evaluated against a range of criteria, including, but not limited to, the criteria identified here; note that questions in the application will support you to provide this information for the assessment:

50% Innovative Technology Adoption

Applications will be assessed on the extent to which the proposed project supports the adoption of innovative technologies in farm operations. Considerations may include:

- the novelty of the technology relative to current practices in British Columbia, Canada, the applicant's region, or commodity
- the maturity and market readiness of the product or solution
- the incorporation of emerging or advanced technologies (e.g., automation, robotics, sensors, data analytics, or decision-support tools)
- alignment with modern, efficient, and scalable agricultural practices

40% – Impact on Labour Savings and Business Case

Applications will be evaluated based on their potential to meaningfully reduce labour demands and demonstrate a strong business rationale. Considerations may include:

- expected labour savings
- existing labour requirements addressed by the project
- anticipated return on investment, payback period, and service life of the technology
- overall financial viability and value for money

10% – Project Management and Timelines

Applications will be assessed on the likelihood that the proposed project can be successfully delivered within program timelines. Considerations may include:

- readiness to proceed and implementation planning
- supplier availability and delivery timelines (delivery before March 20, 2027)
- applicant capacity to manage and complete the project

- identification and mitigation of key risks

Project Award & Outcomes Reporting

Contracting and Awards

All applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application within a target of six-to-eight-weeks after the application period ends (e.g., June 2026).

Awards

Applications approved for funding will be informed of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions by email. The Applicant will then be invited to enter into a Funding Agreement with Innovate BC which outlines the obligations of each party for the approved project.

Unsuccessful applications

Applications that are not approved will be notified of the decision by email. Applicants may request additional feedback and will be provided with further information upon request.

Funding Agreement

Applicants with an approved funding request will be invited to enter into a Funding Agreement with Innovate BC; no funding will be released without the successful execution of a Funding Agreement. After execution, amendments to a project, its corresponding activities, or budget are generally not possible. Innovate BC reserves the right to review Funding Agreements on a case-by-case basis in extenuating circumstances without obligation to agree to proceed with modifications or amendments.

Funding is provided on a reimbursement basis for eligible expenses incurred, subject to submission of expense claims including invoices and proof of payment for the technology purchase, and photographic confirmation the technology has been received on location. Payments will be issued within three to four weeks following a complete project claim submission.

For this funding call, confirmation of purchase and delivery of the technology will be required no later than March 20, 2027

Outcomes Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to complete both a progress and final outcomes survey. The progress survey is required six months after implementation of the funded technology. The final outcomes survey must be submitted no later than January 31, 2028, reporting on the first year of outcomes resulting from the adoption of the technology. These surveys will gather important information regarding technology performance, with specific interest around changes in productivity, efficiency, and/or profitability related to the technology as this will help inform the Ministry and the sector about how and what technologies support labour savings, efficiency, productivity, or profitability for farms in B.C.

Data Privacy

Innovate BC is committed to respecting your privacy. Innovate BC's Privacy Policy identifies what information is collected about you and how it's used by Innovate BC when you visit innovatebc.ca (the "Site"), apply to one of our programs, or communicate with Innovate BC. Please visit the [Innovate BC Privacy Policy](#) to learn more.