Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Technology Adoption Program Guidelines

2026-2027

Version 2

NOVA SCOTIA

Canada

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is a 5-year, $3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of Canada's agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector. This includes $1 billion in federal programs and activities and a $2.5-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60% federally and 40% provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

In Nova Scotia, $46 million will be invested through a federal-provincial partnership that is linked to five program streams: 1) Building Sector Capacity, Growth and Competitiveness; 2) Climate Change and Environment; 3) Market Development and Trade; 4) Science, Research, and Innovation; and 5) Resiliency and Public Trust.

We are also committed to the development of diverse and inclusive industries. We welcome individuals from all underrepresented and underserved communities including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, Black and African Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQI+ and racialized individuals to apply to programming.

Program Objective

The objective of the Technology Adoption program is to support the purchase of equipment and technology that will advance operations through automation, enhanced efficiency, increased production capacity, and quality improvements. This program is designed to assist with increasing the competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of Nova Scotia's agriculture sector.

Eligible Applicants

- Registered Farms
- Mi'kmaq conducting farming activities in Mi'kmaw communities
- Agri-businesses (agri-businesses are eligible to apply for projects in stream 1 only)

Program Criteria

Farms must:

- be currently registered under the *Farm Registration Act*.
- be actively farming in the program year and the applicant must be 19 years of age or older.
- generate an annual eligible gross farming income of $30,000 or more. The eligible farming income will be based on the Farm Registration income level.

Agri-businesses must:

- represent identifiable Nova Scotia agriculture and agri-food products (see note below).
- generate an annual eligible gross income of $30,000 or more based on 2025 or 2026 T2 Corporation Income Tax Return and/or internal Income Statement.
- use the table below to show proof of purchase of a certain level of local ingredients based on their income level.
    - example: An eligible applicant has $55,000 in income, based on the table below they will need to show proof of $10,000 in local inputs.

Proof of local ingredients:

Income Level	Minimum annual purchases of raw agricultural ingredients
$30,000 - $49,999	$5,000
$50,000 - $99,999	$10,000
$100,000+	$25,000

Note: Identifiable agriculture and agri-food products are products supporting economic growth using Nova Scotia primary agricultural ingredients. The level of Nova Scotian grown ingredients will be weighted under the “Degree of Potential Impact” section of assessment.

Financial Assistance

Program funding for will be based on 3 levels:

Income Level	Maximum Funding/Year		
	Stream 1	Stream 2	Stream 3
$30,000 - $99,999	$10,000	$50,000	$10,000
$100,000 - 249,999	$25,000	$50,000	$10,000
$250,000+	$50,000	$50,000	$10,000

Stream 1 – Automation, Packaging, Food Processing and Preservation projects.

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to 50% of eligible expenses, to a maximum of $50,000.

Examples of projects funded under this stream include automated packaging, bottling, and labelling lines, automated sorters, filters, product mixers, freezers and coolers to support expanded production (not replacement of existing freezers and coolers), equipment that automates farm tasks, and processing equipment that supports the development of new value added food products.

Stream 2 – On-Farm Innovation

This stream funds technology that is new to Nova Scotia. Technology that is present in Nova Scotia but is proposed for use for the first time in a certain commodity may also be considered.

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to 50% of eligible expenses, to a maximum of $50,000.

Stream 3 – Precision Agriculture

Applicants can apply to receive Program funding up to 50% of eligible expenses, to a maximum of $10,000, for the adoption of precision agriculture technologies.

Examples of projects funded under this stream include GPS, autosteer, ultrasounds, herd health monitoring, variable rate fertilizer spreader attachments, and variable rate pesticide sprayers.
Note: This program is anticipated to be offered again in 2027-28. However, programs may be modified or discontinued based on budget availability, industry feedback, and government priorities.

Note 2: Quotes are required for all projects under this program and must be provided with the application.

Evaluation Criteria

Provide as much detail as possible when answering these questions. Contact your nearest Business Development Officer for assistance, if required (See contact information at the end of this document).

Stream 1 - Automation, Packaging, Food Processing and Preservation project applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Financial benefits of adopting this technology to your business,** e.g. through increased production/sales, increased market competitiveness, and cost savings (60 points)
- **Level of positive impact on Nova Scotia agriculture,** e.g. through increased employment, increased purchasing of local ingredients (for agri-businesses), increased availability of local products for consumers, potential co-packing opportunities for other businesses, etc. (40 points)

Stream 2 – On-Farm Innovation applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Level of Innovation** (30 points) – testing technologies that have been adopted elsewhere but are new to Nova Scotia or creating new technologies for use on farm where an existing solution is not available.
- **Degree of Potential Impact** (25 points)- to increase the competitiveness, sustainability, and profitability of Nova Scotia's agricultural sector if the technology were widely adopted.
- **Collaboration** (20 points) **-** with other industry stakeholders (including other farms, industry associations, equipment suppliers, research institutions, and indigenous and other under-represented and under-served communities).
- **Effective Knowledge Transfer Plan** (25 points) – how well the project shares information with farmers across Nova Scotia and helps encourage them to try new ideas or technologies.

Stream 3 – Precision Agriculture applications will be evaluated as completed applications are received.

Eligible Expenses

The following items are eligible in this program. Other items meeting the objectives of the program may be considered by the Department of Agriculture on a case-by-case basis.

Stream 1 – Automation, Packaging, Food Processing and Preservation projects

- Commercial food processing and preservation equipment (must meet Canadian regulatory requirements)
- Equipment that automates product packaging and labelling
- Equipment that automates or enhances other production steps, including on-farm, such that production is increased, costs are lowered and/or worker capacity is freed up for higher-value tasks
- Refrigeration or freezers required for business expansion (applications for refrigeration or freezers replacing existing equipment should be directed to an energy efficiency program, such as Advancing Clean Technologies or Efficiency Nova Scotia's Agriculture Beneficial Management Practices Program)
- Installation costs

Stream 2 – On-Farm Innovation

- Innovative equipment or technology costs
- Contracted labour that has a direct relationship to the project
- Transfer of knowledge/sharing of information activities
- Training related to the new technology
- Specialized software purchases and/or subscriptions related to the new technology (standard software is not eligible)

Stream 3 – Precision Agriculture

- Precision agriculture technology such as variable rate product application, GPS, autosteer, weed wipers, soil moisture sensors, field mapping, ultrasounds, etc. (must be clearly identifiable as such on the quote)
- Software purchases and/or subscriptions related to the new technology

Additional Expense Eligibility Requirements

- Used equipment must be purchased from a recognized dealer and be in good condition. Applicants must identify at time of application if they are purchasing used equipment, and these applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Leased equipment will only be funded up to 50% of the cost for the first year of the lease, and not the total value of the equipment.
- Program funding will only be offered on transactions (invoices) that do not involve a supplier/service provider that is associated with the applicant, unless it is proven that an associated supplier/service provider is the only registered company providing that service in the area. In such cases that it is necessary to proceed with an associated supplier/service provider, the applicant must apply for a pre-approval from Programs before proceeding or submitting a claim to ensure that the associated costs will be approved for reimbursement.

Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses are expenses that will not be compensated under this program and include but are not limited to, the following expenses:

- travel expenses
- administrative/general overhead
- buildings/building modifications/sea containers
- in-kind contributions
- vehicles (including off-road and adapted)
- multiple pieces of equipment per applicant with the same function
- purchase of ongoing software licensing costs or fees
- purchase of standard software programs
- operating expenses/existing staff wages/salaries
- small hand tools
- HST

Application Process

To apply for the Technology Adoption program:

- Submit a complete application by **May 31, 2026**.

Application Intake	Activity Period	Claim Deadline
April 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026	April 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	December 31, 2026

Note: An applicant may only complete one application for this program per year and may only apply for a maximum of one project per stream.

Note 2: Applicants new to Programs since 2023 must complete the Program Funding Registration (PFR) form. Returning applicants must update the form as needed with any changes to business information including contact information, structure, commodities, environmental farm plan and Premise ID.

Approval Process

1. Stream 1 and Stream 2 will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture and shared with a review committee that will score the applications against the stated evaluation criteria. Completed applications for Stream 3 will be reviewed by the Department of Agriculture as they are received.
2. If approved, applicants will receive a **Letter of Agreement (LOA)** that identifies the Program funding offered and the terms and conditions under which Program funding is approved.
3. The applicant is responsible for reporting any errors in the LOA, including the Program funding amounts provided.
4. The applicant must review, sign and return the LOA to Programs within **30 days** of the date of the LOA or the Program funding will be forfeited.

Note: Approval of applications is subject to availability of Program funding. The total amount of Program funding awarded to each applicant, or to associated applicants, may be limited at the discretion of the Department of Agriculture to ensure opportunities for additional applicants to access Program funding.

Claiming Process

A **Program Claim Form** will be sent to the applicant after the signed LOA is received.

To submit a claim, applicants must:

1. Complete and sign the Program Claim Form**.**
2. Attach copies of all invoices for eligible project costs which they have incurred and paid for.
3. Attach proof of payment for each invoice – e.g. e-transfer confirmation, debit slips, cleared cheques, or credit card/bank statements. (Invoices marked paid and signed by the supplier are not accepted).
4. Attach in-kind labour documentation identifying the date, task and hours completed (self identified) – e.g. spreadsheet.
5. Submit the claim with the required supporting documentation to the Programs office by **December 31, 2026**.

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

Final Report

Projects approved for Program funding have mandatory reporting requirements. Applicants will receive the reporting template with their claim form.

Applicants will be subject to a **25% holdback** on their submitted claim if the final report is not submitted at the same time. Final Reports may be made available publicly on the Department of Agriculture website and a follow-up review may be conducted after project completion.

Leased Land

Eligible projects must be directly applicable to the registered farm qualifying for Program funding on agricultural land owned or leased. A copy of the long-term lease of at least 10 years or rental agreement must accompany the application for all physical projects applicable to the leased/rented land. It is a condition of approval that the lease be of at least 10 years duration and must last for at least 5 years after the project funding has been received. You must advise us immediately, in writing, if the lease is terminated, if the term of the lease changes or if the identity of the lessor changes in any way (for example, if the lessor assigns the lease or if the lease changes in composition).

Authority

The Department of Agriculture shall have the authority to deny an application if it does not meet the requirements described in the Program Guidelines or there is evidence of misrepresentation of pertinent information.

Evaluation and Audit

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

Conflict of Interest

No current or former Federal public servant or public office holders will receive benefits from this funding except in compliance with Conflicts of Interest Act (Canada), the Conflicts of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, or the Federal “Values and Ethics Code” for the public sector and the Federal “Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Post-Employment”. No Member of Parliament or Senator will be allowed to obtain financial benefit from this funding except in accordance with the Parliament of Canada Act.

Contact Information

Submit all documents to Programs at the address or email below. For more information, contact Programs or your regional office.

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
Programs Office
74 Research Drive
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia B6L 2R2
Telephone: 902-893-6377
Toll Free: 1-866-844-4276
Email: prm@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture Regional Offices		
Western (Covering West Hants, Kings, Annapolis, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, and Lunenburg counties)	Yarmouth	902-223-8085
	Digby	902-638-2395
	Kentville	902-679-6021
	Lunenburg	902-634-7575
Eastern (Covering Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants, Halifax - including HRM, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough, Richmond, Inverness, Cape Breton, and Victoria counties)	Truro	902-893-6575
	Nappan	782-370-2278
	Antigonish	902-863-7180
	Sydney	902-563-2000