



Growing Forward

**Enabling Agricultural Research and
Innovation Program**

GUIDELINES

April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2013

Canada 


New  Nouveau
Brunswick

Growing Forward

Enabling Agricultural Research and Innovation Program

Objective:

To encourage the growth, profitability, sustainability and self-sufficiency of New Brunswick's agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors through innovative research and development; pre-commercialization and technology development activities; and on-farm innovation and adoption of new technologies.

Program Elements:

I. Innovative Research and Development:

Objectives: To provide financial assistance to support short to medium term innovative research and development projects which can improve profitability, competitiveness, sustainability and self-sufficiency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors in New Brunswick.

Eligible Applicants: Non-government organizations, institutions, academic institutions, agri-businesses and individuals or groups involved in research and/or innovation with the potential to improve the growth, prosperity and profitability of New Brunswick's agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors.

Industry Support: If projects are not submitted through a representative NB agricultural industry association, a letter indicating the association's support must be provided by the association directly to the Growing Forward Administrator. If for confidentiality reasons this is not feasible, a letter to this effect with rationale acceptable to Growing Forward administration must be provided.

Eligible Activities:

- a) Projects which address gaps in scientific knowledge which target new innovation opportunities.
- b) Industry-led research and development projects which can improve profitability, competitiveness, sustainability and self-sufficiency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors in New Brunswick.

All eligible projects must be science based and demonstrate sound scientific understanding and leadership.

Level of Assistance: In order to be considered, industry is expected to provide significant in-kind and/or cash contributions towards the project. Level of assistance will be dependent upon such things as organization type (for profit, not for profit), sector capacity, industry support, potential benefits, public versus private benefits, residual value to the applicant after completion of the project and total cost of the project and level of risk.

II. Accelerating Agricultural Innovation:

Objectives: To provide financial assistance to accelerate new product, practice or process development leading to their commercialization or adoption which can improve the profitability, competitiveness, sustainability and self-sufficiency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors in New Brunswick.

Eligible Applicants: Non-government organizations, institutions, academic institutions, agri-businesses and individuals or groups involved in new agri-product, practice or process development with the potential to improve the growth, prosperity and profitability of New Brunswick's agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors.

Industry Support: If projects are not submitted through a representative NB agricultural industry association, a letter indicating the association's support must be provided by the association directly to the Growing Forward Administrator. If for confidentiality reasons this is not feasible, a letter to this effect with rationale acceptable to Growing Forward administration must be provided.

Eligible Activities:

- a) Activities required to move knowledge gained from research along the innovation continuum through to the pre-commercialization or pre-adoption phase in support of the development of new agri-products, processes or practices. Activities to resolve pre-commercialization issues are eligible (ie proof of concept, product design, prototyping), as well as associated pre-commercialization business development requirements (ie. market studies/analysis, business plans, IP, feasibility studies etc).
- b) Activities that trigger the development of economic linkages with commercialization partners to broker or develop new value-chains.

Level of Assistance: In order to be considered, industry is expected to provide significant in-kind and/or cash contributions towards the project. Level of assistance will be dependent upon such things as organization type (for profit, not for profit), sector capacity, industry support, potential benefits, public versus private benefits, residual value to the applicant after completion of the project, total cost of the project and level of risk.

III. Supporting the Innovative Capacity of Farmers

Objective: to support the development or adaptation of technical innovations on-farm, as well as supporting the early adopters of new technologies or practices.

Eligible Applicants: farmers, groups of farmers, industry organizations, agri-entrepreneurs.

Industry Support: If projects are not submitted through a representative NB agricultural industry association, a letter indicating the associations support and potential benefit to overall industry must be provided by the association directly to the Growing Forward Administrator. If for confidentiality reasons this is not feasible, a letter to this effect with rationale acceptable to Growing Forward administration must be provided.

Eligible Activities:

- a) **Supporting investments in the development or adaptation of technical innovations on-farm**, which contribute to on-farm profitability and competitiveness. Innovations could be developed by farmers or groups of farmers, or could be sourced from domestic or international science or technology developers and adapted to the New Brunswick context. This could include development of new equipment or other technologies for use on-farm, as well as adapting existing equipment or technologies in a new and innovative manner for use in NB. In order to be considered for funding a strong formal evaluation and communication plan must be part of the project. Expenses associated with the evaluation and communication plan are also eligible expenses.
- b) **Supporting early adopters of new technologies or practices** to assess their effectiveness in New Brunswick. Eligible technical innovations and practices will be new, not generally available, or not widely adopted in a given region or sector. In order to be considered for funding a strong formal evaluation and communication plan must be part of the project. Expenses associated with the evaluation and communication plan are eligible expenses.

Proponents must have the support of industry and agree to report and disseminate project results.

Level of Assistance:

- a) **Supporting investments in the development or adaptation of technical innovations on-farm** - Up to 50% funding towards eligible costs will be considered for approved projects. Expenses associated with the formal evaluation (i.e. consultant) and communication plan are eligible for up to 100% funding. Maximum contribution will not exceed \$35,000 per project.
- b) **Supporting early adopters of new technologies or practices** - Up to 35% funding towards eligible costs will be considered for approved projects. Eligible items may include such things as equipment, machinery, and other technologies that are new to NB. Expenses associated with the formal evaluation (eg consultant) and communication plan are eligible for up to 100% funding. Maximum contribution will not exceed \$35,000 per project.

Additional Program Information:

Program Duration

The Growing Forward Enabling Agricultural Research and Innovation Program will operate from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2013, unless otherwise announced. Submitted projects must demonstrate capability of achieving desired results within the program time frame. Project approvals are based on an approval within one fiscal year (April 1 to March 31) only. Multi-year projects are only approved for one fiscal year at a time and subject to satisfactory progress.

Eligible Costs

Direct project costs such as salaries and benefits, travel, materials, supplies, equipment, rentals and leases, laboratory analysis, translation and administration as well as other costs considered necessary for the successful completion of the project will be considered. Non-recoverable portions of HST will also be an eligible expense if included within submitted project budgets. Expenses associated with building new infrastructure and land purchase will not be considered.

Eligible travel allowances are not to exceed New Brunswick provincial government rates as prescribed in the provincial Travel Directive.

Administration

It is expected that successful applicants will administer the contribution to their project on the condition that the applicant can demonstrate that adequate financial administrative procedures are in place. If adequate financial administrative procedures are not available, the applicant must involve another capable organization in the project and its administration. Administration charges shall not exceed 10% of the actual project funds administered by the applicant. The eligible administration costs are based on those expenses invoiced to and paid directly by the applicant and claimed through the project. If no acceptable organization can be found, the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (DAAF) may administer the funds upon the request of the client. A Project Officer will be appointed for each project to ensure applicable financial administrative procedures, timelines, and reporting requirements are followed.

Advances

Upon request, advances may be provided to the successful applicant. Initial advances on project costs may be obtained for up to 50% of the approved project amount to be administered by the applicant. Dependent upon the nature of the project, a subsequent advance for up to 50% of the remaining approved project amount may be provided once a claim for the initial advance has been processed and the project officer has certified that project activities are meeting their projected targets.

Environmental Impact

Projects approved for assistance under this program must be environmentally sound. If it is determined that the project could have significant environmental impact, an environmental assessment may be required prior to project approval. It is the applicant's responsibility to research regulatory requirements in advance of submitting an application, to obtain permits and ensure environmental compliance.

Project Reports

Applicants are required to submit an interim report for multi-year projects and a final report following project completion. Final reports must be submitted no later than forty-five days after the approved project completion date. Information required in project reports will be sent with the letter of offer and will also be available on the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries website under Growing Forward, or by contacting the NB Growing Forward Administrator (GFCAAdmin@gnb.ca).

A portion of the approved funding may be held back until the required final report(s), satisfactory to the project officer, has been submitted and is complete. Failure to submit an acceptable final and/or summary report may affect funding approval decisions for future projects.

Unless otherwise specified in a written agreement between the Applicants and the Growing Forward Administration, the results from the project may be published.

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