



2022  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**Building on 100 years  
of feeding Canada  
and the world**



**FRUIT & VEGETABLE  
GROWERS  
OF CANADA**

**PRODUCTEURS  
DE FRUITS ET LÉGUMES  
DU CANADA**

*Celebrating resiliency, growth and opportunity*

*Célébrer la résilience, la croissance et les opportunités*



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Building on 100 years of feeding  
Canada and the world**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Isaac Newton once said, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Preparing to write this message for our 2022 Annual Report, I couldn’t help but look back to our history. We are at the close of our centennial year, which has been a year of reflection on the past 100 years – what we have done well, what we have struggled with, and what lessons we hope to take with us into our next 100 years.

Reflecting on this history, one thing has stood out clearly to me - we are able to do better, and advocate more effectively, because of the example set by the founders of the FVGC. We really do build on the success of our past. Going forward, FVGC needs to remain committed to building on this experience and momentum.

The founders of FVGC came together in 1922 with the primary objective of advancing “...all matters tending toward the improvement of the horticultural industry in Canada.” They met roadblocks on the path to organizing, but they persevered and the Canadian Horticultural Council was established. Reading through the prominent issues of the first 50 years of the CHC, I saw so many similarities with the issues for which we advocate today. While the scope of the issues has changed, and we have made many advancements and improvements, we share the same vision – an innovative and sustainable Canadian horticulture industry. And because of the initiative and foresight of those original founders, we have been able to advocate for growers across the country, and ensure that we will have sustainable agriculture for years to come.

Now, as we stand on the edge of the next 100 years, we must ask ourselves, what do we want to accomplish so that future generations can build on *our* work? I think I speak for many of us, when I say the issues of our day are financial protection for growers and agricultural sustainability. We need to ensure that our farms and operations are profitable and sustainable. We need to ensure that we have the next generation of growers ready to take on the challenges of growing fruit and vegetables in Canada. If history tells us anything, I think the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada are poised to take on these challenges, like our forebears did before us, leaving the next generation with even more room to grow.



**Jan VanderHout**  
President, Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It's been over a year in the making, but we are finally gathered to celebrate our centennial year in person! Since our last virtual AGM, a lot has happened.

We have returned to in-person advocacy events and meetings with Parliamentarians and government representatives. We turned our 100th anniversary into a year-long celebration with our members by touring the country and meeting with our wonderful growers. With first-hand accounts of the challenges facing growers and seeing the farms in-person, we have been even better positioned this year to convey your concerns to government. We have advocated for measures from crop protection to labour reforms to financial protection, and, notably, all things related to the broad impacts of the supply chain disruptions.

## LOOKING BACK

We all thought 2022 would be easier than 2021. However, 2022 was again a challenging year, layering new problems on top of the already difficult legacy left by the previous two years. Growers across the country faced adversity on multiple fronts. Supply chain issues, coupled with inflation and the rising cost of all inputs have created especially daunting challenges for Canadian growers this past year. Geo-political conflict has led to issues with fertiliser shortages and rising tariff costs, potato wart has had a serious impact on the movement of potatoes from PEI, and storms such as Hurricane Fiona on the east coast caused severe damage to grower operations. Climate change impacts continue to present problems to members, as growers work to balance shifting government requirements with producing high-quality fruits and vegetables in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. Canadian growers have met these challenges head-on, with perseverance and tenacity, and it continues to be a privilege to represent Canadian growers as your voice in Ottawa.

Despite 2022's challenges, there is a lot of good news that came from the year as well. While COVID-19 has not gone away, we are

learning to live with it, and we were able to safely resume in-person lobbying. A big focus of our meetings was food as a priority in legislation and policy and *Bill C-280, the Financial Protection for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act*. We have never been closer to accomplishing the goal of financial protection for growers than we are now with *Bill C-280*.

On the Trade and Marketing front, in December, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food requested our input into their investigation on food price inflation. The results from our survey on the costs facing growers in Canada to produce food for Canadians showed the negative trends in our sector and emphasized the importance of grower operations being profitable if Canadians are to have domestic food security.

Over the last 18 months, it has been my pleasure to represent FVGC members on the Steering Committee in charge of the Grocery Industry Code of Conduct, making sure that the grower's voice is heard and addressed throughout the development of the Code. What we have developed is in fact much more than a list of provisions; it is a set of integrated measures including principles, trade rule provisions supported by clear definitions, a dispute resolution mechanism, an adjudication process, mediation and arbitration models, and enforcement mechanisms. Together, I am hopeful that they will work to promote fair and ethical trading and contractual certainty.

Under Environment, we have been advocating for *Bill C-234*, accompanied by our like-minded colleagues





of the Agriculture Carbon Alliance, to emphasize the need for upfront exemptions to reduce the burden of the carbon tax for growers. This Bill is also making its way through the legislative process, and we are working diligently to promote its swift passage. We also joined our international produce colleagues in leading the sector through a discussion on global sustainability requirements and how certifications might be streamlined to reduce the burden throughout the supply chain, starting with the growers.

On labour, FVGC worked in partnership to develop a National Workforce Strategy for Agriculture, helping to promote and address the labour needs of growers. In Budget 2022, the Government of Canada committed to implementing a Recognized Employer Program, which is something for which FVGC has long been advocating. We reminded the Minister of Finance of this commitment in our Budget 2023 pre-budget consultation submission to ensure that this program is implemented as soon as possible.

Food Safety advocacy this year has focused on the impacts of regulatory barriers and a lack of consultation from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In response to the increasing frustration with the lack of communication and transparency from CFIA, the Fresh Produce Alliance (FPA) – comprised of FVGC, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) – convened a technical working group with CFIA. In recent months, CFIA has shown an increasingly positive disposition to improve on communications and other underlying concerns expressed by the FPA. We also partnered with CanadaGAP this year to expand the scope of the Greenhouse Food Safety Program and to push for the acceptance of two new non-GFSI certification options. Reducing the regulatory burden on growers is an important step to ensuring the sustainability of our sector.

In Crop Protection, much of our energy went towards participating in the numerous working groups convened to help the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) in their transformation process, as well as advocating for a substantial increase in the funding to Pest Management Centre (PMC).

FVGC has been directly involved in the consultations for the Next Policy Framework, and we are also one of the members of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy Committee, co-chaired by AAFC and Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA). Representation on these committees ensures that we can be involved in shaping the policy of tomorrow. I look forward to consulting with all of you on the issues, ideas, and suggestions that you want us to bring forward while FVGC represents you at these national committees.

Canadian potato growers, and specifically those in Prince Edward Island, faced an extremely challenging year. New detections of Potato Wart on PEI in late 2021, and the resulting restrictions in the movement of potatoes to the USA and around Canada, created significant challenges for PEI potato growers. The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) has been working to address these challenges, sitting on the Resource Group to the International Expert Panel of potato wart scientists and regulators. The CPC is also part of a working group that is reviewing the Potato Wart Domestic Long-Term Management Plan; this work will continue into 2023. FVGC and the CPC remain committed to finding solutions to this serious issue for potato growers.

FVGC's Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group set ambitious goals at the beginning of this year to strengthen the foundation of greenhouse grower operations in Canada and to keep the sector relevant into the future. As a result, they are working to create the Canadian Greenhouse Excellence Network (CGEN). The first CGEN Summit was held in February 2023, bringing together Canadian greenhouse vegetable growers, government representatives and industry stakeholders to launch the network and take the next steps in CGEN strategic planning and capacity building. This allied network will help the sector to meet the Government of Canada's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions-reduction targets and contribute to the shared vision of a vibrant and strong Canadian greenhouse industry.

While 2022 has been a very busy year, we also took time to celebrate our centennial. Throughout 2022, FVGC toured across Canada to meet with growers, industry members and government representatives. We used this opportunity to learn more about the challenges impacting individual growers and the ways in which they meet those challenges and overcome them. We celebrated milestone events with some of our member organizations and participated in Annual General Meetings and other gatherings and consultations along the way. You can learn more about our Cross-Country Centennial Tour on page 53 of this annual report.

## SECTOR COLLABORATION

FVGC is privileged to exist as part of a fulsome and vibrant sector. We have formed partnerships with many like-minded organizations, and these collaborations allow us to access resources and support and further our own advocacy efforts.

FVGC remains an active partner of the Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council (CAHRC). We joined the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity as a member in 2022 and benefit from CCFI's research and initiatives that promote trust in Canada's food system and in our fruit and vegetable sector. Other organizations that we collaborate with include our partners in the Fresh Produce Alliance (CPMA and DRC), the Agricultural Carbon Alliance, CropLife Canada, and many others.

We have been working closely with l'Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) to ensure the concerns of primary agriculture are adequately considered



throughout the development of Canada's first Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. We have been very pleased with the constructive efforts of all the other organizations along the supply chain ( Food Health and Consumer Products, the Retail Council of Canada, the Food Producers of Canada, Dairy Processors Association of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, and until recently, Food and Beverage Canada), as the negotiations have moved solidly in the right direction.

All of these alliances are rewarding and allow us to achieve objectives that we would not be able to achieve on our own. Thank you to our partners for working with us and helping to support Canadian fruit and vegetable growers. Good things grow out of effective and strong partnerships like these!

## LOOKING FORWARD

No matter the challenges that face Canadian growers in any given year, every time I sit down to write my message for the annual report, I am always struck by just how much we have to look forward to. Canadian growers never stop innovating, changing, pushing boundaries and reaching new limits. Looking back on 2022, I am proud of the work that FVGC has done to advance the causes that are most important to you. The files are ongoing, and I look forward in 2023 to the culmination of many of our efforts in concrete results.



**Rebecca Lee**  
Executive Director,  
Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada





# IN NUMBERS

87

**Communication Reports with the Lobby Commissioner.** This year, FVGC filed 87 communication reports with the Lobby Commissioner. Whenever our staff or members meet with designated public office holders, a corresponding report must be filed highlighting the themes discussed. We were in the top 10 for national agriculture associations, submitting communication reports which speaks to how active we were in raising issues on your behalf in Ottawa.

28

**Submissions to Government Consultations.** We submitted reports with recommendations to various Government consultative bodies focusing on the National Adaptation Strategy, the Next Policy Framework, supply chain issues, labour, the School Food policy, and recommendations for the federal budget among other policy issues.

2

**Appearances at a House of Commons Standing Committee.** In February 2022, FVGC's Executive Director and the Chair of the Trade and Marketing Group appeared before the Standing Committee of Agriculture and Agri-Food. They presented on the impact that supply chain disruptions were having to fruit and vegetable growers. Later, in December, Rebecca Lee appeared at the same committee and presented comments during their investigation into grocery price inflation. She shared the results of a survey that FVGC distributed to our members on the rising costs of inputs for growers.

12

**Letters to Government.** FVGC wrote 12 letters on the issues that were most important to Canadian growers, including Potato Wart, the Recognized Employer Program and tariffs on Russian fertilizer imports.

4

**Joint letters to Government.** We collaborated with our partners to write 4 joint letters to the Government about supply chain issues, carbon taxes on growers, the AgriScience Clusters, and re-opening trade and transport corridors during the blockades in February.

50

**Meetings with Parliamentarians and Government Officials.** Over the course of two joint advocacy events, we met with 50 different Parliamentarians and Government officials and shared the primary concerns facing our members this past year. Among those concerns were *Bill C-280*, *the Financial Protection for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act*, and the need to make food a priority in government policy.

5

**Meetings with Federal Ministers and/or their staff.** Aside from our joint advocacy events in 2022, FVGC had five additional meetings with Federal Ministers and/or their staff. We brought the concerns of our Members directly to the Ministers who make the decisions about these policy issues.

1,313

**Twitter Followers and 1510 LinkedIn Followers.** Many of our followers are Parliamentarians and industry stakeholders. In 2022 we gained 823 LinkedIn followers and 185 Twitter followers. FVGC is working to increase our engagement on social media allowing us to actively engage with the most influential individuals and organizations in the sector and around the country, in real-time.

# BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT

Business risk management (BRM) tools are essential to Canada's agricultural sector. Unfortunately, many growers are not adequately supported by the current suite of programs. While growers continue to face challenges related to market disruptions, weather events, and pests and diseases, FVGC continues to advocate for the federal government to further strengthen the BRM suite to ensure that growers are supported.

## ENHANCEMENTS TO AGRISTABILITY

Following their July meeting, the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Agriculture announced that the compensation rate for AgriStability would increase from 70% to 80%. This was a substantial achievement, as FVGC and allied stakeholders had been advocating for this for many years. The announcement also builds on the previously published removal of the Reference Margin Limit.

The new compensation rate for AgriStability will take effect under the next framework agreement, which effectively means the coverage will take effect for the 2023 program year. The new rate will

continue throughout the remainder of the 5 five-year (2023-2028) agreement, between the federal government and provincial and territorial governments.

While this is a big step in improving AgriStability, FVGC continues to push for the increase of the trigger, which would be more reflective of the reality of many growers and better allow for growers to make a claim.

## FVGC AGRIRISK PROJECT

From 2020-2022, FVGC had been working with AIRM Consulting – through an AgriRisk project – to develop a top-up insurance program for fresh fruit and vegetable growers. The program would also look at rewarding growers who mitigate their risk by diversifying their crops. Phase I of the project was completed and the report was published in February 2022. Unfortunately, Phase II of the project was halted while Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) undertakes a feasibility study on revenue insurance in the fruit and vegetable sector.

AAFC has contracted a consultant to undertake a complete analysis of how whole farm revenue insurance and margin insurance could work for the fruit and vegetable sector (including the potato sector) in Canada. This work will build off the basic framework outlined in





the department’s previous third-party review of whole farm revenue insurance for the grains and cattle sectors, while also adapting and customizing to account for the unique characteristics of the production and market risks and data availability in the sector. The project will consist of five phases (listed below), with the aim to be completed in December 2023.

<b>Phase 1</b>	Environmental Scan
<b>Phase 2</b>	Review of Data Availability
<b>Phase 3</b>	Develop a Whole Farm Revenue Insurance Blueprint
<b>Phase 4</b>	Risk Assessment
<b>Phase 5</b>	Actuarial Assessment (Premiums, Liability, Admin)

FVGC has already met with the consultant and AAFC on the project, and will be meeting at least monthly with the consultant to provide feedback and expertise.

## THE NEXT POLICY FRAMEWORK

Beginning in 2021 and into 2022, AAFC consulted with industry stakeholders on the development of the Next Policy Framework (NPF). The NPF is the development of the next five-year (2023–2028) investment by federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments which constitutes the funding of programs designed to support Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sector. The new framework will be called the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) and will replace the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), which ends March 31, 2023.

FVGC has been involved in these consultations and has provided comments both verbally through meetings with AAFC, and in our written submissions to the consultation. FVGC has also worked with allied stakeholders to push back against plans to include cross-compliance of environmental best management practices in BRM programs. We believe that BRM programs must serve the core function of providing financial protection for growers, and should not be further restricted by any additional requirements.

## LOOKING AHEAD

FVGC looks forward to the release of the Next Policy Framework early in 2023. We will continue to work with our partners in the federal government to advocate for improvements to programs to better support our sector. At the same time, we look forward to exploring alternative coverage options while our AgriRisk project is put on hold. This will entail working with the Programs Branch at AAFC to look at models that exist in the United States, as well as participating in the feasibility study on revenue insurance.

# CROP PROTECTION

The Crop Protection Advisory Group (CPAG) of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (FVGC) worked hard in 2022 on behalf of growers to advocate for their crop protection needs and in aid of ensuring the continued, successful production of fruits and vegetables, and of food security in Canada.

## CROP PROTECTION ADVOCACY

FVGC continued to advocate regarding the crop protection needs of fruit and vegetable growers in 2022 at events such as Farm to Plate and Fall Harvest. CPAG also met with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the Pest Management Centre (PMC) in 2022 to discuss the crop protection issues and concerns of Canada's fruit and vegetable growers. Additionally, FVGC lobbied for increases in funding.

### PMC FUNDING

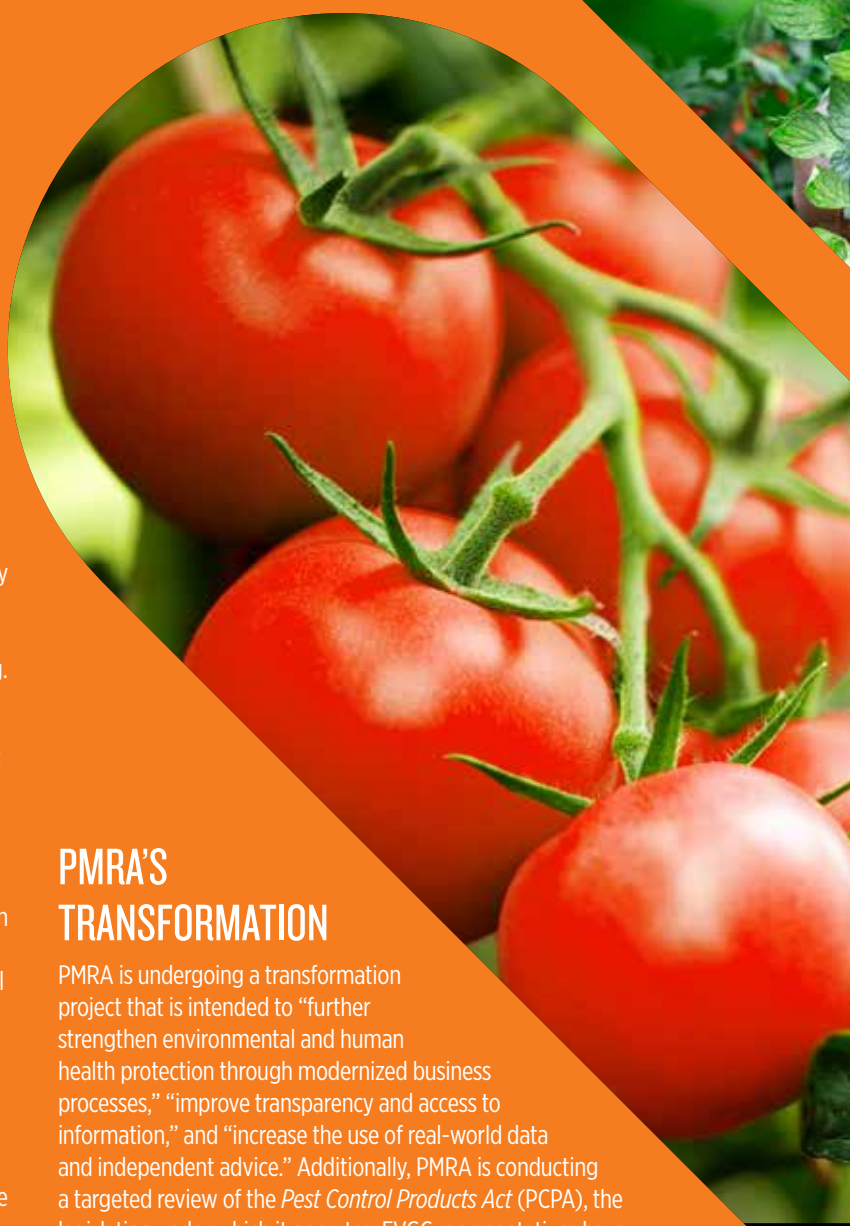
FVGC developed a briefing note and infographic describing the urgent need for additional funding to be provided to PMC, whose 5-year funding renews in April 2023. We are asking for an immediate \$5 million budget increase to PMC, with full annual inflationary increases thereafter. This 'ask' was included in our submission to AAFC's Next Policy Framework document and in our October prebudget submission to Finance Canada. Lobbying efforts in 2022 included meetings with MPs, Senators, and government officials to advocate for this additional funding to PMC.

### PMRA FUNDING

PMRA was granted three years of additional funding in 2021 until 2024. This funding is, among other things, helping PMRA to collect better data on the use of crop protection products and to conduct water monitoring; both efforts will help PMRA's re-evaluations of these products to be more field-realistic. FVGC has already begun lobbying the federal government for this additional funding to be extended after 2024 in aid of PMRA's core work, and to ensure the continued collection of this information.

## PMRA'S TRANSFORMATION

PMRA is undergoing a transformation project that is intended to "further strengthen environmental and human health protection through modernized business processes," "improve transparency and access to information," and "increase the use of real-world data and independent advice." Additionally, PMRA is conducting a targeted review of the *Pest Control Products Act* (PCPA), the legislation under which it operates. FVGC representatives have participated actively in 2022 on all five of PMRA's transformation technical working groups as well as its transformation steering committee to ensure that FVGC understands these initiatives and that the needs of fruit and vegetable growers are communicated to PMRA. FVGC has also worked closely with other agricultural stakeholder groups to, as much as possible, ensure that our positions are aligned.





## CROP PROTECTION PRODUCT USE INFORMATION REPORTS

FVGC responded to requests from PMRA for use information for the following crop protection active ingredients in 2022: chlorothalonil, phorate, fluazinam and methoxyfenozide. FVGC prepared bilingual surveys of the use of these products on fruits, vegetables and potatoes and is thankful to the growers who completed these anonymous surveys. The information from these surveys helps make PMRA's health and environmental risk assessments of crop protection products more realistic, so that more products and uses survive the re-evaluation process. Without this information, PMRA must make the most conservative (i.e., worst-case assumptions) regarding use patterns for crop protection products in performing their risk assessments (e.g., assumptions of 100% crop treated, maximum rate of application, maximum number of applications).

## POST APPLICATION EXPOSURE

PMRA has asked for "glove studies" to be conducted on a half dozen horticultural crops in aid of quantifying protection factors for farm workers when wearing gloves during various activities in the field after products have been applied. These protection factors should shorten restricted entry intervals (REIs) to be more agronomically feasible and aid retention of crop protection products that could otherwise be lost to conservative worker exposure assessments. FVGC is advocating for the completion of the protocol for this research and is lobbying government and industry for the funds to do the actual research work.

## RE-EVALUATIONS OF PESTICIDES

During 2022, PMRA published the following evaluation documents regarding crop protection products registered on fruits and vegetables in Canada, which were monitored by FVGC:

<b>Special Review Decision</b>	Proposed	Chlorothalonil; Picoxystrobin
	Final	Naled; Squash bee exposure to clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid on cucurbits
<b>Re-evaluation Decision</b>	Proposed	<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i> strain PFC2139; zoxamide; 1-methylcyclopropene; <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain MBI600 and <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> strain QST 713; Putrescent Whole Egg Solids; capsaicin and related capsaicinoids; quizalofop-ethyl;
	Final	kresoxim-methyl; triticonazole; difenoconazole; straight chain lepidopteran pheromones; mustard seed powder ( <i>Brassica hirta</i> ) and sodium alpha-olefin sulfonate; kaolin
<b>Registration Decision</b>	Proposed	tiafenacil; pyraziflumid; <i>cis</i> -jasmone; <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> strain R444; fenazaquin; attenuated cucumber green mottle mosaic virus strain ON-BM3; <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> strain F727; pyrifluquinazon; ipflufenquin
	Final	flutianil; tiafenacil; <i>cis</i> -jasmone; <i>Trichoderma asperellum</i> strain ICC 012 and <i>Trichoderma gamsii</i> strain ICC 080; <i>Beauveria bassiana</i> strain R444; attenuated cucumber green mottle mosaic virus strain ON-BM3



## CHANGES TO MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS (MRLs) BY OTHER COUNTRIES

FVGC received eight requests from the Market Access Secretariat (MAS) of AAFC to comment on changes to MRLs being proposed by other countries and international bodies. FVGC responded to these proposals by researching and documenting the potential impact of the proposed changes to these MRLs on Canada's exports. MAS then forwarded FVGC's comments to the World Trade Organization.

## EUROPEAN UNION (EU) REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

FVGC commented on regulatory documents from the EU, including "Application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products" and "Public consultation on plants produced by certain new genomic techniques."

## LOOKING AHEAD

FVGC will remain engaged with PMRA's consultations on its transformation proposals, monitor and comment on PMRA's activities regarding re-evaluations and new registrations, and contribute to PMRA's needs for use information on crop protection products in aid of saving products and uses. FVGC will keep advocating for increased funding for PMRA and PMC, and funding for post-application exposure glove studies. Additionally, FVGC will continue to monitor and respond to proposed regulatory initiatives from other countries that could impact the use of crop protection products by Canadian growers.

## PMRA Re-evaluation and Special Review Activities Impacting Food Production Horticulture in 2022

### FUNGICIDE

Active Ingredient	Tebuconazole Group 3	Zoxamide Group 22	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> cluster Group BM02	Azoxystrobin Group 11
Trade Name	FOLICUR Fungicide	ZOXIUM Fungicide	SERENADE, TAEGRO, Biofungicide	QUADRIS Fungicide
Consultation Status	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2021-08</b> July 23, 2021. Target for Re-evaluation Decision Document: Feb 2023.	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-06</b> Mar 28, 2022	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-09</b> May 20, 2022	Public consultation (cyclical): Target Jan 2023
Re-evaluation Category	1	1	3	1
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture	Proposed acceptable for continued use with mitigation measures	Proposed acceptable for continued use with mitigation measures	Proposed acceptable for continued use	
Horticultural Food Uses	Asparagus	Potatoes, grapes, onion (bulb)	Asparagus, Crop Group 13 (bushberries & c aneberries), Group 13-07 (berry and small fruit), highbush & lowbush blueberry, Group 5 (cole veg), Group 6 (legume veg), Group 3 (bulb veg), Group 1 (root tuber veg), potato, sugar & garden beets, Group 9 (cucurbits), Group 8 (fruiting veg), tomato, pepper, grapes, Group 4 (leafy veg), lettuce, spinach, celery, Group 11 (pome fruit), apples, Group 12 (stone fruit), radish, turnip, rutabaga, strawberry, Group 19 (herbs & spices)	Succulent shelled pea and bean, potatoes, field tomatoes, sweet corn, ginseng, asparagus, spinach, carrots, daikon, rutabaga, turnip, garden beet, radish, ground cherries, cabbage, cranberries, celery, strawberries, blueberries, sweet potatoes, cucurbit vegetables

## FUNGICIDE

Active Ingredient	Chlorothalonil Group M5	Picoxystrobin Group 11	Fenbuconazole Group 3	Cyprodinil Group 9
Trade Name	DACONIL, BRAVO, ECHO, CHLOROTHALONIL, EQUUS Fungicide	ACAPELA, CEREFIT A Fungicide	INDAR Fungicide	VANGARD, SWITCH Fungicide
Consultation Status	Proposed Special Review Decision: <b>PSRD2022-01</b> Feb 10, 2022	Proposed Special Review Decision: <b>PSRD2022-03</b> Nov 2, 2022	Public consultation (cyclical): Target Jan-Mar 2023	Public consultation (cyclical): Target Jan 2023
Re-evaluation Category			1	1
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture	<b>PMRA proposing cancellation of all uses except on gh ornamentals due to health and environmental risks</b>	<b>Proposed acceptable for continued use</b>		
Horticultural Food Uses	Carrot, parsnip, potato, onions (dry bulb & green bunching), cole crops (broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage), tomatoes (processing), asparagus, highbush blueberries, cherry (sweet & sour), sweet corn, peach, nectarine, cranberry	Edible podded legumes, succulent legumes, potatoes, onions	Stone fruit, blueberry (highbush)	Apple, stone fruit, grapes, onions, strawberries, blueberries (high and low), caneberries (Group 13-07A), carrots, mustard greens, turnip greens, cabbage, Crop Group 5B (rapini, bok choy etc.), Crop Group 3-07 (garlic, leek, onion, etc.), Saskatoon berries, Crop Group 1B (beet, radish, etc.), celery, ginseng, spinach, peppers (field), tomatoes (field), bushberries (Group 13-07B), low growing berry (Group 13-07G)



Famoxadone Group 11	Fenamidone Group 11	Fluazinam Group 29	Fosetyl aluminum Group P07
TANOS Fungicide	REASON Fungicide	ALLEGRO Fungicide	ALEITTE Fungicide
Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Jul-Sep 2024	REASON Fungicide Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Oct-Dec 2023	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Oct-Dec 2024	Special Review: Initiated Apr 2022
1	1	1	
Potatoes, field tomatoes, caneberries	Carrot, cucurbit veg, potatoes, turnip greens, tomato, succulent beans	Potatoes, Bulb Onion Crop Subgroup (3-07A), carrots, cucurbit veg, field peppers, blueberries, currant, elderberry, gooseberry, huckleberry, apples, Bok choi Chinese cabbage, broccoli, broccoli raab, Brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflower, cavalo broccoli, Chinese broccoli, Chinese mustard cabbage, collards, kale, kohlrabi, mizuna, mustard greens, mustard spinach, Chinese Napa cabbage, rape greens, runner, snap and wax beans, Field-Grown Cucurbit Vegetables (Crop Group 9) (chayote (fruit), Chinese waxgourd, citron melon, cucumber, gherkin, gourd, <i>Momordica</i> spp., muskmelon, pumpkin, summer squash, winter squash, watermelon)	Apples, ginseng, red/black raspberries, blackberries, cranberry, grapes, strawberries, lettuce, greenhouse lettuce in BC, spinach, onions, brassica head and stem vegetables (Crop Group 5-13) and brassica leafy vegetables (Crop Group 4-13B), greenhouse-grown brassica head and stem vegetable transplants (Crop Group 5-13), greenhouse-grown brassica leafy green transplants (Crop Subgroup 4-13B), kohlrabi, rutabaga, Belgian endive, highbush blueberries, ginseng

## FUNGICIDE

Active Ingredient	Trifloxystrobin Group 11	Boscalid Group 7	Pyraclostrobin Group 11
Trade Name	STRATEGO, FLINT, TRILEX AL, CGA279202, EVERGOL, LUNA SENSATION Fungicide	LANCE, PRISTINE, CANTUS Fungicide	HEADLINE, CABRIO, PRISTINE Fungicide
Consultation Status	Scoping phase completed	Scoping phase completed	Scoping phase completed
Re-evaluation Category	1	1	1
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture			
Horticultural Food Uses	Sweet corn, grapes, pome fruits, cherries, succulent and snap bean, asparagus, stone fruits, fruiting veg, cucurbits, celery, Chinese celery, root veg, strawberry, succulent lima bean, pea, cowpea, pigeon pea, moth bean & southern pea, root veg, leafy green & petiole veg, brassica leafy veg, low growing berries	Succulent beans and peas, potatoes, berry group, Belgian endive, Brassica vegetables group, bulb vegetables group, carrots, celeriac, cucurbit crop group, grapes, GH cucumbers, lettuce, fruiting vegetables, peppers, tomatoes, leafy vegetables (except brassica), pome fruit group, stone fruits group, strawberries	Edible-podded legumes (Group 6A), Succulent shelled beans and peas (Group 6-B), potatoes, blueberries (highbush & lowbush), bulb vegetables, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, garden beet tops, radish tops, root vegetables, stone fruit, strawberries, berries, Belgian endive, Brassica vegetables, grapes, GH cucumbers, GH lettuce, GH peppers, GH tomatoes, leafy vegetables, pome fruit

## INSECTICIDES

Active Ingredient	Pyrethrins Group 3	Abamectin Group 6	Acetamiprid Group 4A
Trade Name	SAFER'S, BUG-X, etc. Insecticide	AVID, AGRI-MEK Insecticide/ Miticide	ASSAIL Insecticide
Consultation Status	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2020-08</b> Sep 17, 2020. Target for Re-evaluation Decision Document: October 2022	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Nov 2022	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Oct-Dec 2023
Re-evaluation Category	<b>Legacy active</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture	<p><b>Food uses proposed for continuation are limited to the crops and uses on Commercial Class labels: GH peppers, blueberry, grape, raspberry, herbs, spices, pears, pinto, snap &amp; wax beans, tomato.</b></p> <p><b>All food uses on Domestic Class labels other than those listed above were not assessed and are proposed for cancellation.</b></p>		
Horticultural Food Uses		GH tomatoes, GH peppers, GH cucumbers, apples, pears, caneberries (Subgroup 13-07A), strawberries, celery, potatoes, grapes, bulb onions (Subgroup 3-07A), green onion (Subgroup 3-07B)	Leafy vegetables, Cole crops (Group 5), field tomato, pome fruit, potato, Leafy Vegetables (Group 4), ground cherry, field peppers, stone fruit, strawberries, blueberries (lowbush and high-bush), Bushberries (Group 13-07B), grapes, sweet corn, rutabaga, Succulent shelled pea and bean (Subgroup 6B), edible podded pea, asparagus, Caneberries (13-07A)

## INSECTICIDES

Active Ingredient	Clothianidin (general) Group 4A	Thiamethoxam (general) Group 4A	Spinetoram Group 5
Trade Name	CLUTCH Insecticide	CRUISER, ACTARA Insecticide	RADIANT, DELEGATE Insecticide
<b>Consultation Status</b>	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Apr-June 2023	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Apr-June 2023	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Apr-Jun 2024
<b>Re-evaluation Category</b>	1	1	1
<b>Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture</b>			
<b>Horticultural Food Uses</b>	Potato (Nipsit seed piece treatment), sweet potato, pome fruit, grape, strawberry, cucurbit vegetables, stone fruit	Sweet corn, beans, peas, cucurbit vegetables, potatoes, Leafy Vegetables (Group 4), Brassica Vegetables (Group 5), Fruiting Vegetables (Group 8-09), apples, crabapples, pear, oriental pear, root vegetables, cane berries, bushberries, cherries, low growing berries, field pepper, GH peppers	Pome Fruits CG 11-09, apple, asparagus, highbush and lowbush blueberries, caneberries (raspberry, blackberry), cole crops (Brassica leafy veg), fruiting veg & okra, grape, Leafy Veg CG 4-13, turnip & beet greens, carrot, horseradish, radish, Oriental radish, rutabaga, turnip, Stone Fruit CG 12-09, strawberry, Berries CSG 13-07A, 13-07B, 13-07G, Brassica Head & Stem Veg CG 5-13, Fruiting Veg CG 8-09, Leaves of Root & Tuber Veg CG 2, potatoes, root veg, Leaf Petioles Veg SCG 22B, Stalk & Stem Veg CSG 22A, Bulb Veg CG 3, snap bean, basil, dill, ginseng, sweet corn, Bushberries CSG 13-07B, Caneberries CSG 13-07A, Low Growing Berry CSG 13-07G, GH veg, mint

Spinosad Group 5	Methoxyfenozide Group 18	Phorate Group 1B
SUCCESS, ENTRUST Insecticide	INTREPID Insecticide	THIMET Insecticide
Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Apr-Jun 2024	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Oct-Dec 2024	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Jan-Mar 2025
1	1	2
Apples, potatoes, root and tuber veg (horseradish, radish, Oriental radish, rutabaga, turnip), sweet corn, Leafy Greens Crop Subgroup 4-13A, Brassica Leafy Greens Crop Subgroup 4-13B, Fruiting Veg CG 8-09, Pome Fruits CG 11-09, Brassica Head & Stem Veg CG 5-13 and kohlrabi, Stone Fruits CG 12-09, chokecherries, nectarines, peaches, cherries (sweet & tart), snap bean, GH veg, grape, cranberry, lowbush and highbush blueberry, Caneberry Subgroup CG 13-07A, Bushberry Subgroup CG 13-07B, Low-growing Berry subgroup CG 13-07G, Stalk & Stem Veg CG 22A, Leaf Petiole Veg Crop Subgroup 22B, Bulb Veg CG 3-07, basil, dill seed, ginseng, GH transplants, Brassica Leafy Greens Crop Subgroup 4-13B, Brassica Head & Stem Veg CG 5-13, mint	Apples, pears, other pome fruit, raspberries (red and black), other caneberries, cranberries, blueberries (highbush and lowbush), other bushberries, grapes, cherries, peaches, other stone fruits Broccoli, cabbage, other brassica (cole) leafy vegetables, sweet corn, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, squash & zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, other fruiting vegetables, lettuce (head and leaf), other leafy vegetables, beans (succulent), peas (succulent), sweet potatoes, other tuberous and corn vegetables, herbs (except chives)	Potatoes

## HERBICIDES

Active Ingredient	Quizalofop-p-ethyl Group 1	S-metolachlor & R-enantiomer Group 15	Atrazine Group 5
Trade Name	ASSURE II, YUMA, LEOPARD Herbicide	DUAL MAGNUM Herbicide	AATREX LIQUID 480 Herbicide
Consultation Status	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-17</b> Jul 29, 2022	Public consultation (cyclical): Target Sep 2022	Public consultation (Special Review): Target Sep 2022
Re-evaluation Category	1	1	
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture	<b>Proposed acceptable for continued use with mitigation measures</b>		
Horticultural Food Uses	Peas, snap beans, Saskatoon berries, rutabagas, cucurbit vegetables	Potatoes, beets (sugar & red), transplanted tomatoes, rutabagas, carrots, peas (processing), fruit trees, strawberries, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, mustard greens, highbush blueberries, field peppers, asparagus, cantaloupe, field cucumber, Asian radish, celery, cucurbits, eggplant, parsnips, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, snap common beans, potatoes, red beets, apple, apricot, sweet & sour cherry, peach, pear, plum, pumpkin, winter squash, cucurbit veg, caneberries	Sweet corn

Glufosinate ammonium Group 10	MCPA Group 4	Desmedipham Group 5	Dicamba Group 4	Fatty Acid Cluster
<b>IGNITE, LIBERTY Herbicide</b>	<b>MCPA AMINE, etc. Herbicide</b>	<b>BETAMAX Herbicide</b>	<b>BANVEL, ORACLE, DYCLEER, HAWKEYE, M1691, FEXAPAN, ENGENIA, XTENDIMAX 2, DISHA, AMMO Herbicide</b>	<b>AXXE Herbicide</b>
Public consultation (Special Review & cyclical): Target Oct-Dec 2023	Special Review: Initiated Mar 2022	Special Review: Initiated Mar 2022	Public Consultation (Special Review): Target Apr-Jun 2023	Information gathering phase
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
Raspberry, apples, apricots, cherries, (sweet and sour), blueberries grapes, nectarines, pears, plums, peaches, strawberries, asparagus, carrots, lettuce, onions, potatoes	Vegetable crops, asparagus, sweet corn, legumes (incl. peas), peas for canning	Garden beets, strawberries	Blueberries (lowbush)	Food crops, greenhouses

## OTHER TYPES OF PRODUCTS

Active Ingredient	1-Methylcyclopropene (1-MCP)	Chondrostereum purpureum (Strain: PFC2139)	Methyl Bromide
Trade Name	SMARTFRESH, ETHYLBLOC, RIPELOCK, EASYFRESH, HARVISTA, FYSIUM PGR	CHONTROL, LALICIDE CHONDRO PGR	TERR-O-GAS Fumigant
Consultation Status	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-05</b> Mar 24, 2022	Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-03</b> Mar 22, 2022	Public Consultation (Special Review & cyclical): Target Mar 2023
Re-evaluation Category	3	3	
Proposed Re-evaluation Decisions Impacting Food Horticulture	Proposed acceptable for continued use	Proposed acceptable for continued use	
Horticultural Food Uses	apples, pears, tomatoes	Sprout inhibition in choke cherry and buckthorn	Tomatoes



Putrescent whole egg solids	6-benzylaminopurine	Gibberelins cluster: gibberellic acid, gibberellins A4A7	Nonylphenoxypoly ethoxyethanol
DEER-AWAY, HORTI-KURE Repellent	PROMALIN, ACCEL, MAXCEL, PERLAN, CILIS PGR	ACTIVOL PGR	AGROL 90, AG-SURF, etc. Surfactant
Proposed Re-evaluation Decision: <b>PRVD2022-11</b> Jun 16, 2022	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Mar 2023	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Mar 2023	Public Consultation (cyclical): Target Mar 2023
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Proposed acceptable for continued use with mitigation measures</b>			
Fruit trees	Apples, pears, sweet cherries	Sweet and sour cherries, rhubarb	Non-ionic spreading agent for use with pesticides including those applied to fruits and vegetables

**Sources:**

The information in the above tables is based on:

- Part A, Table 1; Part A, Table 2a of REV2022-01, dated May 6, 2022. Pest Management Regulatory Agency Re-evaluation and Special Review Work Plan 2022-2027: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-note/2022/special-review-work-plan-2022-2027/rev2022-01-eng.pdf>
- PMRA's Pesticides and Pest Management Consultations: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public/consultations.html>
- PMRA Pesticide Label Search Tool: <https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php>

**Note:**

Some Trade Name products listed above contain additional active ingredients and in some cases these combination products list more crops on their labels than are found on labels for the active ingredient alone.

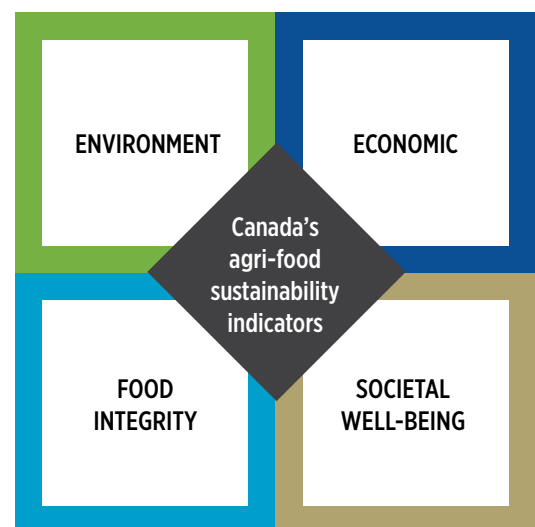
# ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

FVGC has been active on the energy, environment and climate change file this past year, advocating on behalf of growers to government, reminding them of the need to balance our environmental targets with our food security. We work daily with our government counterparts to encourage the development of goals that will ensure the agricultural industry's economic and environmental viability that is so important to Canada's future.

## INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE

FVGC recently compared clean agriculture funding available to Canadian and American farmers. That comparison showed Canadian growers can potentially receive support from the government at the rate of \$2.95 per year, per acre, while American farmers can receive more than double that amount, at more than \$6.00 per year, per acre from the wide range of tax credits, grants and loans included in the *Inflation Reduction Act*. The Canadian government is reviewing the impact this will have.

The Government of Canada's Fall Economic Statement acknowledged the act and said, "significant steps will need to be taken to ensure that Canada remains competitive in North America and the world." The document also mentioned the need for Canada to boost investments to support the transition to a net zero economy, including significant investments in technology for agriculture, as well as the need for investment in training, education, and skills development in those areas as well. FVGC is working on your behalf to encourage the Canadian government to develop a comparable program.



## DEVELOPING CANADA'S NATIONAL INDEX ON AGRI-FOOD PERFORMANCE

Over the past two years, FVGC has been participating in the development of Canada's first agri-food sustainability index, the National Index on Agri-Food Performance, ensuring that producers are playing a major role. This novel tool will measure the sector's sustainability performance on a consolidated basis. By taking a holistic approach, the Index spans four sustainability blocks and includes a comprehensive set of metrics for the environment, food integrity (food safety), economic, and societal well-being. The Index broadly aligns with key national

and global food goals and investor-driven ESG (environmental, social, governance) factors.

Improving such transparency could be used in the domestic and global marketplace to show sector leadership, support sustainability claims, and improve market access. It could also provide additional context on sector performance for investors as ESG reporting requirements increase. Being forthright about improving social and environmental outcomes could also help to affirm Canada's trusted food brand and build greater consumer trust. Better metrics in hand could also be used to inform policy, innovation, and research priorities.



While the Index does not score individual farms or companies, the Index intends to nudge up sustainability disclosures across the agri-food sector and drive-up sector alignment to meet changing sustainability expectations. Canada is among the very few countries worldwide to position its agri-food sector this way.

Developing the Index has been led by an unprecedented coalition of over 120 private-public partners, working collaboratively and pre-competitively. The Index pilot will be published in spring 2023. The coalition is also aiming to establish a proposed Centre for Agri-Food Benchmarking to manage and evolve the Index in the future. ([www.agrifoodindex.ca](http://www.agrifoodindex.ca))

## KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (GBF)

In late 2022, the United Nations Convention of the Parties met in Montreal to discuss critical issues on biodiversity. FVGC attended side meetings and was able to align messaging with our industry partners ahead of the meeting, addressing our concerns in a letter to federal ministers who would be involved in the COP-15 negotiations.

An agreement was reached after an intense two weeks of negotiations; the main targets under what is called the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)* include many items related to biodiversity which will impact the agriculture sector in Canada.

Over the past two years, FVGC has been participating in the development of Canada's first agri-food sustainability index, the National Index on Agri-Food Performance, ensuring that producers are playing a major role.

FVGC's main concern is with target 7 on pollution, which specifies "reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, taking into account food security and livelihoods." There is no agreed methodology yet for the indicator on pesticide risk. Going forward, a technical group will work with countries to guide the development of this indicator.

In Canada, AAFC has begun to meet with industry, including FVGC, to have a national discussion on these targets. Canada was instrumental in negotiating these targets, with Minister Guilbeault acting as a mediator, working individually with countries to develop consensus among the group throughout the process. As such the current government can be expected to want to be seen as showing strong leadership on the targets.

## IFPS SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

On November 10th, 2022 FVGC's Executive Director, in her role as Chair of the International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS), helped lead the IFPS Sustainability Symposium. Industry from across the globe came together to discuss the impacts sustainability standards are having on their business and on their paths forward.

The IFPS is an incorporated body of national and multinational fresh produce associations, including FVGC, with a focus on standardization for the industry in terms of traceability, data synchronization, produce identification, food safety, and sustainability.

With the growing importance of sustainability in all aspects of our industry value chains, industry must ensure that the requirements of any sustainability regulatory framework or supply chain reporting requirements take the realities of our fresh produce value chains into consideration, and do not add undue burden or barriers.

A position paper, *Sustainability as a Global Industry Goal*, which informed the Symposium, was followed up with an event report which included next steps for the fresh produce sector, including the observation that industry appears to view sustainability not as one homogenous mass, but as a concept that separates into strategic, tactical, and operational segments.



## LOOKING AHEAD

FVGC will monitor the impact of the U.S. *Inflation Reduction Act* and will remain engaged with the government to ensure Canadian growers are not at a disadvantage relative to their American counterparts, with the view of enabling funding support for the transition.

FVGC will continue to support the development of the **National Index on Agri-Food Performance**.

FVGC will remain involved in the conversation on behalf of our growers **regarding the Kunming-Montreal GBF** to interpret the target and develop metrics and indicators.

For our next major response to government, FVGC will be engaging members to inform our submission to the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy. FVGC is also proud to be represented on the newly created Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Committee, which includes a diverse representation of sector stakeholders that will play an important role in facilitating collaboration, transparency, and information sharing as steps are taken toward finalizing a strategy.

FVGC will continue to play a key role in the global conversation on sustainable food systems, which will help address climate change, and biodiversity loss, as well as food security.

## GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CONSULTATIONS

This year FVGC responded to four Government of Canada consultations related to the environment file on the topics of:

- The Federal Sustainable Development Strategy
- The National Adaptation Strategy
- Changes to Clean Energy Regulations and
- Fertilizer Emissions Reductions.

We worked closely with other national agriculture associations to ensure alignment, so the government is hearing consistent messages from all of agriculture as often as possible.



# INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND FOOD SAFETY

FVGC works closely with agricultural stakeholders and government officials on issues impacting industry standards and food safety. This is to ensure our growers are properly equipped and have the resources needed to provide consumers with healthy and fresh produce of the highest quality.

## FRESH PRODUCE ALLIANCE – CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Multiple regulatory barriers, as well as a lack of consultation by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), have made it difficult for the fresh fruit and vegetable sector to innovate and operate in a competitive manner. In response to the increasing frustration with slow or absent answers, the Fresh Produce Alliance (FPA) – comprised of FVGC, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and the Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) – convened a technical working group with CFIA. The FPA-CFIA Technical Working Group was created in an effort to foster a more transparent, responsive, and collaborative working relationship between the Agency and industry.

**An update to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals (Version 10.0) will be published for the 2023 season. The Greenhouse manual will reflect the scope expansion that CanadaGAP has been working on over the past year.**

The working group meets every month, and reports back to the President of CFIA bi-annually. Issues that the working group have looked at, or will be looking at include the underlying issues of

communication and the need for creative problem solving. Specific topics include:

- Industry relations, including tools like AskCFIA;
- Grade standards and amendments;
- Pest risk assessments;
- Food labelling requirements;
- National soil sampling survey for potatoes;
- Test market authorizations (TMAs), Ministerial Exemptions (MEs), and container sizes;
- Onion inspections and trade requirements with the United States;
- Import controls for romaine lettuce;
- Ensuring appropriate expertise at international trade negotiations;
- Destination Inspection Service;
- Organic certification requirements;
- Regulatory review process, particularly the next phase of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations;
- And simplifying the Incorporation by Reference (IbR) process.

We will continue working alongside the other members of the Fresh Produce Alliance to address the regulatory burden of CFIA, and to move forward in a more productive and collaborative manner.

## CANADAGAP CERTIFICATION OF EMERGING PRODUCTS

In partnership with FVGC, CanadaGAP began work this year on an AAFC-funded project to expand the scope of the Greenhouse Food Safety program. It is expected that, by April 1, 2023, producers of many more greenhouse-grown crops will be able to seek certification under the CanadaGAP program – such as companies producing and packing melons, berries, various root vegetables, cruciferous crops and legumes in a controlled environment.



An update to the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals (Version 10.0) will be published for the 2023 season. The Greenhouse manual will reflect the scope expansion that CanadaGAP has been working on over the past year. The manuals are typically published by January, with an effective date of April 1, 2023. For further updates please visit the program website at [www.canadagap.ca](http://www.canadagap.ca).

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRODUCE STANDARDS

As member of the International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS), FVGC also sits on the IFPS Food Safety Committee, which brings together produce stakeholders from around the world to discuss and work on common interests of food safety and global standards, particularly GFSI and CODEX. Through the committee, IFPS has been cultivating its relationship with the Consumer Goods Forum which oversees the Global Food Safety Initiative Coalition (GFSI).

IFPS is also responsible for approving Price Look Up (PLU) codes. PLUs have been used by supermarkets to identify bulk produce since 1990 to make check-out and inventory control easier, faster and more accurate. In 2022, the IFPS approved 14 new PLUs:

- 7 for apples
- 5 for grapes
- 1 for plums
- 1 for onions

There are currently over 1400 PLU codes issued for fresh produce and produce related items. The PLU codes list has been translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese and the IFPS has been diligently updating photos of the products for use as reference. The full list of PLUs can be found at [www.ifpsglobal.com](http://www.ifpsglobal.com).

FVGC's Executive Director, Rebecca Lee, served as the IFPS Chair in 2022, and continues in the role in 2023. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with our international partners on the committee.

## GFSI CERTIFICATION FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

We understand how impactful the changes made by GFSI to the global benchmark are for our growers. Building on our work in 2021, where FVGC worked with CanadaGAP to create two new non-GFSI certification options – which meet most of the GFSI criteria without being overly burdensome and untenable – we are now working with our partners to push for the acceptance of these new options.

We have been engaging with Canadian retailers directly, with the support of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA), with the hope of finding common ground to minimize the impact of GFSI requirements.

We will continue to use our international fora, particularly the IFPS Food Safety Committee, to push GFSI to take a step back from its overly arduous requirements.

## LOOKING AHEAD

FVGC will work closely with industry partners in Canada and around the world to ensure issues around standards and food safety are practical and do not impede the industry's competitiveness. A significant component of this work will be strengthening communication with CFIA to minimize the regulatory burden many members continue to experience. We also anticipate the next round of consultations for updates to the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations to be coming sometime in 2023.

# LABOUR

Labour is an absolutely critical issue for fruit and vegetable growers, and maintaining access to labour has become increasingly difficult for growers across the country. FVGC works with various government departments, including Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), to remove or lessen obstacles in obtaining this critical workforce.

## BUDGET 2022 INCLUDES ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUNDING FOR TRUSTED EMPLOYER MODEL

Following years of FVGC's advocacy, the government of Canada committed, through Budget 2022, to create a Trusted Employer Model in the TFWP and SAWP programs. The budget included a commitment of \$29.3 million over three years to introduce a Trusted Employer Model that reduces red tape for repeat employers who qualify. While FVGC is very encouraged by the announcement, we continue to push ESDC to work with employer representatives, like FVGC and its member organizations, to ensure that the program is accessible, transparent and provides real benefit to long-standing employers in the programs. We also continue to push for the program to be referred to as a Recognized Employer Model, so as not to imply that employers who are not in the program are not trusted.



## FVGC'S WORK WITH THE NATIONAL WORKFORCE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The National Workforce Strategic Framework is an industry-led plan for Canada's agriculture and food and beverage manufacturing sectors to achieve workforce stability by 2030. The group is led by the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC), the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Food and Beverage Canada (FBC). The Framework aims to address chronic labour shortages and serious skills gaps, which undermine Canada's ability to maintain current levels of food production.

Since its launch in April 2022, work on the National Workforce Strategic Framework has progressed and now includes over 60 industry organizations working across five key themes.

- Perception and Awareness of Industry and Careers
- People and Workplace Culture
- Immigration and Foreign Workers
- Skill Development
- Automation and Technology

FVGC is proud to sit on the Framework working groups and to have been a signatory on the interim report.

We look forward to our continued collaboration with our industry partners on this important endeavour.







## AAFC LABOUR STRATEGY

The Government of Canada, through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, has also committed to creating a sector-specific Agricultural Labour Strategy to address persistent and chronic labour shortages in farming and food processing. FVGC submitted comments to the inaugural consultation in September.

An initiative such as this is long overdue and will help better position the sector to access domestic workers in the years to come. We are looking forward to working with government and project leaders from industry to ensure the input of FVGC members is taken into account, and the strategy is workable for fruit and vegetable growers.

## SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROGRAM (SAWP) BILATERAL MEETINGS

The Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) bilateral meetings returned to in-person in 2023. On behalf of FVGC, our Labour Working Group Chair, Beth Connery, traveled to Mexico and the Caribbean in November to lead the employers in the negotiations between Canada and the SAWP source countries. Given how valuable this program is to growers, it is integral to have representation on the ground at these meetings and there was great cooperation and representation of employers by FVGC, FARMS, FERME, and WALI.

The newly negotiated contracts and addendum will be available on ESDC's website for the 2023 season.

## AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROTECTION REGULATIONS

In 2021, FVGC submitted comments to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and ESDC in response to proposed regulatory changes, with impacts to the TFW Program. The new regulations were released on September 26, 2022. The new regulatory amendments aim to strengthen protections for temporary foreign workers.

One important update is that employers must now provide workers with an addendum to the contract that includes additional information that is specific to their working conditions. The details must match what was included in the LMIA application. Both the contract and the addendum must be signed by the worker before work begins.

FVGC supports any efforts to improve protections for workers and for ensuring the long-standing integrity of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. We will continue to work with our government partners on ways to improve the program for both workers and employers.

## LOOKING AHEAD

FVGC will continue to advocate on behalf of Canadian growers to ensure the long-term viability of the Temporary Foreign Worker and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Programs. We will also work with our government partners and allied stakeholders to address gaps in the labour market and find solutions to build a reliable, stable workforce for the agriculture and agri-food sector for years to come. FVGC will continue pushing to be included in the development of the Recognized Employer Model to ensure that it benefits our growers. We also look forward to putting forward workable solutions to address issues in the integrity regime that benefit workers and employers.

# TRADE AND MARKETING

Trade and Marketing issues were a big focus for FVGC in 2022, keeping Canadian growers' competitiveness and profitability top of mind. Supply chain issues combined with a labour shortage made this past year challenging for many growers. We worked on the financial protection of our members with *Bill C-280, The Financial Protection for Fruit and Vegetable Farmers Act*. In the media and in homes across Canada, the subject of food inflation was a hot topic this past year and FVGC was at the forefront, advocating for our members, working with governments to identify and examine the issue.

There has been increasing interaction between the Trade and Marketing file and the Energy, Environment, and Climate Change file, with overlapping policy and financial impacts as governments struggle to balance economic sustainability alongside their environmental sustainability goals. This is a trend that is likely to persist.

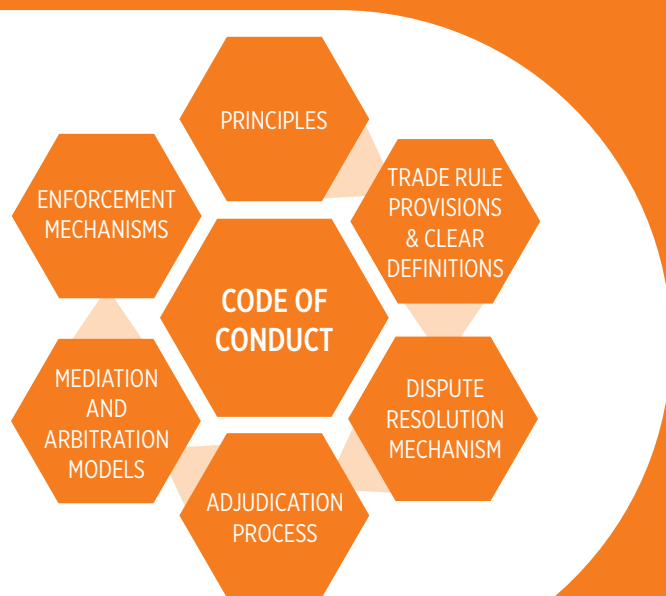
## GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE OF CONDUCT INITIATIVE FOR CANADA

Ensuring that risks, costs, and fair earnings are spread throughout the supply chain is critical for growers, and a strong Grocery Industry Code of Conduct is a step in that direction. FVGC's Executive Director represents growers across Canada on the Grocery Industry Code of Conduct Steering Committee. To help her with this, FVGC brought together a Code Support Group of our members, to ensure that we had input and support from the growers who are impacted by this issue.

After over one and half years of negotiations, in addition to completing the draft Code of Conduct provisions, the Steering Committee is in the final stages of developing 1) the administrative governance, 2) adjudication model and 3) enforcement mechanisms. The Steering Committee is working with legal counsel and many other experts, including an Industry Sub-Committee Working Group, to inform and guide the Committee to arrive at a Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is not a singular document. It is a set of integrated measures including: (a) principles, (b) trade rule provisions supported by clear definitions, (c) a dispute resolution mechanism, (d) an adjudication process, (e) mediation and arbitration models, and (f) enforcement mechanisms, which work together to promote fair and ethical trading and contractual certainty.

FVGC has been at the forefront of developing the Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. We are working in partnership with other industry representatives including:

- *Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada*
- *The Retail Council of Canada*
- *Food Producers of Canada*
- *The Dairy Processors Association of Canada*
- *The Canadian Federation of Agriculture*
- *The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers*
- *The Canadian Produce Marketing Association*
- *L'Union des producteurs agricoles*
- And until recently, *Food and Beverage Canada*.



**Source:** Grocery Industry Code of Conduct Steering Committee Progress Report to FPT Ministers, January, 2023

## ADVOCACY ON FOOD INFLATION

FVGC has spent much of the past year dealing with the issue of food inflation- assessing the issue and discussing strategic ways to support our members. There was a lot of coverage in the media and debate about where the increased costs were coming from, including supply chain issues, inflation, and the war in the Ukraine.

In the fall of 2022, FVGC circulated a survey on rising costs to growers, with a specific lens to viewing whether rising costs were a barrier to adopting and investing in climate-smart agriculture. The results reflect that costs have been rising on inputs across the country and growers

are struggling to cover those costs; 44% of respondents were selling at a loss and 77% were not able to raise their selling price in line with their increased costs. Initial results were shared with MPs in December when FVGC's Executive Director appeared before the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) as part of their study on Food Price Inflation. FVGC took the opportunity to point out that, as growers are seriously struggling with rising input costs, this is hindering their ability to invest in their operations. To support growers and to keep the price of products down, FVGC recommended agriculture and food production be prioritized by the government; that a strong Grocery Industry Code of Conduct be established; and that risk management supports for the horticulture sector be expanded.

## SUPPLY CHAIN

Related to the issue of food inflation is the conversation of the supply chain. FVGC appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food regarding supply chain issues in February 2022, and was closely involved in the file all year.

Government of Canada departments collaborated to hold a National Supply Chain Summit in January 2022 to stimulate dialogue with transportation supply chain stakeholders. Following the Summit, the Minister of Transport appointed a National Supply Chain Task Force to inform measures taken by the Government. FVGC representatives participated in a roundtable session and we submitted a report on supply chain issues facing growers to the Task Force's consultation process.

The task force released their report in November, which included some of FVGC's recommendations, in particular establishing a supply chain office and digitalizing the supply chain to create end-to-end visibility.

At an international level, the North American Produce Transportation Working Group is a subcommittee of the International Fresh Produce Association's Supply Chain Committee. As part of that committee, FVGC contributed to the Fresh Produce Transportation Best Practices. The Fresh Produce Transportation Guidelines provide specific criteria and direction for most trading challenges. Late in 2022, FVGC joined the Global Coalition of Fresh Produce which works to voice solutions to address disruptions in global supply chains for fresh produce, including rising costs, as well as sharing and promoting best practices.

## BILL C-280: THE FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS ACT

Due to the high perishability of produce and the industry's longer payment terms, the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* does not provide a workable mechanism for when buyers of fresh produce become bankrupt. FVGC has advocated for a financial protection mechanism for many years.

FVGC and its members worked closely with CPMA to help MP Scot Davidson (York—Simcoe) prepare a Private Member's Bill which would

## LOOKING AHEAD

Bill C-280 will persist as an important issue into 2023: we are hopeful that financial protection for fruit and vegetable growers in Canada will finally be achieved! Access to information in order to resolve the concerns regarding ministerial exemptions will be actively pursued. FVGC will remain very active on the development of the Grocery Industry Code of Conduct, to see it through to a final first version that can be implemented.

seek to amend the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* and the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* by establishing a deemed trust for fresh produce sellers, ensuring that they have priority access to an insolvent buyer's assets related to the sale of fresh produce. The resulting Bill C-280 was tabled on June 8, 2022, and was up for debate in the House of Commons in the fall. FVGC and CPMA have prepared advocacy documents for our members so that they are equipped to reach out to their Members of Parliament and urge them to support this important legislation, available at [www.protectproducesales.ca](http://www.protectproducesales.ca).

## MINISTERIAL EXEMPTIONS - BULK PRODUCE

In the mid-1960's, the *Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations* under the *Canada Agricultural Products Act* were amended to allow the movement of bulk ungraded and unlabelled produce to processing or repacking facilities when these products were not available in Canada, thus facilitating trade. These provisions under the Regulations were called the Ministerial Exemptions. To qualify for a Ministerial Exemption, an applicant was required to submit evidence that a shortage in available supply exists along with the application for exemption.

What has changed: On July 6, 2022, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency published amendments to the *Safe Food for Canadians Regulations* (SFCR) related to the Food Product Innovation initiative. Included in this was a substantial amendment to the bulk ungraded and unlabelled produce. Canadian processors and grocers no longer need to request a ministerial exemption - and therefore no longer need to show shortage of a commodity in Canada before choosing to import from a US competitor for most commodities. Ministerial exemptions are still required to import bulk carrots, potatoes and apples. Interestingly, a Ministerial Exemption is still required for some inter-provincial trade. FVGC has submitted a request to CFIA for an update on the status of inter-provincial MEs to learn if there are plans to align these sets of regulations, and will work with CFIA to ensure that these changes do not have negative impacts on our members.

# SECTOR SUPPORT

## COLLABORATING ON POLLINATORS

Record levels of losses of honey bees were registered across Canada following the winter of 2021-2022 due to many hives not overwintering well, and the subsequent poor spring conditions. Because of these hive losses, the demand for imported bee packages (i.e., boxes containing 2 or 3 pounds of bees) needed for rebuilding these hives far exceeded the available supply. Currently, bee packages can be imported to Canada only from Australia, New Zealand and Chile. CFIA is reviewing the possibility of importing bee packages from other countries including Italy and Ukraine, and has been strongly encouraged to explore imports from the USA, Slovenia and Cuba. FVGC has monitored this situation by following the work of the Blueberry Pollination Working Group and participating actively on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada-led Industry-Government Honey Bee Sustainability Working Group. This working group has been focused on the needs of the 2022 season, preparation for 2023, and building on recommendations for the long-term sustainability of beekeeping in Canada and the crops that depend on bees for pollination.

## THE CANADIAN PLANT HEALTH COUNCIL

The Canadian Plant Health Council (CPHC) unites plant health partners from industry, academia and government to continuously strengthen Canada's plant health system by setting strategic direction for the implementation of the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada.

In 2022, the Council continued to deliver results via working groups established in the three priority areas of surveillance, biosecurity and emergency response. Notably:

- Coordinated surveillance initiatives for monitoring European corn borer and common waterhemp were tested during the 2022 growing season;
- To enable rapid and efficient plant health emergency responses, a common notification process has been drafted that sets out an approach for the communication pathways for partners to notify each other when a potential plant threat has been detected; and
- A listing of biosecurity resources within Canada and internationally was updated to inform next steps in developing biosecurity communication products to enhance awareness.

Overall, these working groups serve as national, collaborative networks that facilitate information and coordination among partners, which is critical to preventing and mitigating threats to plant health.

The Council also continues to support the development of the Canadian Plant Health Information System, a platform that will enable information sharing and collaboration among plant health partners across Canada. Once launched, the information system will

help to accelerate working group activities.

The 11-member governing body of the Council has successfully transitioned into a board of directors responsible for setting the strategic direction for collective action. Ongoing operational strengthening continues to define longer-term objectives, improve communication and engagement, and explore resourcing. FVGC holds the position as Industry Co-chair since the inception of the CPHC

## CANADIAN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS) is the national lead and voice on invasive species in Canada. With members and chapters from all corners of Canada, along with governments and businesses, the CCIS brings people together to build practical solutions to prevent the spread of invasive species to protect Canada's landscapes, species, and communities from invasive



species for the generations to come. CCIS is unique in that we have a Chapter Network made up of 10 invasive species organizations across Canada, with the goal to build a strong, national, and inclusive voice that supports and links the range of provincial and territorial invasive species organizations from coast to coast to coast. It is our goal to have one recognized Chapter in each province and territory. We work collaboratively with our Chapter Network to avoid duplication, work on key issues, host events and share resources. In 2022, CCIS grew substantially in staff, strengthened our finances as well as obtained charity status, which was a huge milestone for the CCIS. In December, staff attended COP15 and hosted an event at the Canada Pavilion, which showcased biodiversity preservation and restoration taking place across Canada, including a strong program of events by Indigenous peoples, women and youth. The CCIS event, titled 'All Hands on Deck: Inclusive Collaboration in Protecting Biodiversity from the Impacts of Invasive Alien Species' where panelists discussed models for building effective multi-party land management collaborations with indigenous peoples to address IAS. COP15 resulted in the unprecedented *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* agreement to safeguard nature and address biodiversity loss by 2050 and was truly a historic moment to have shared. As CCIS looks forward to 2023, we will continue to grow and strengthen partnerships across Canada to assist in meeting the targets of the new *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*, including through our numerous behaviour changes

campaigns to ensure action among communities and industry against invasive species.

FVGC's Executive Director has continued on the Board of the CCIS and serves as liaison between CCIS and CPHC, to ensure alignment, collaboration and information exchange where relevant.

## AAFC SECTOR ENGAGEMENT TABLES

The Sector Engagement Tables (SETs) are intended to create purposeful dialogue between agriculture and agri-food sector representatives and government officials to collectively advance growth and competitiveness in Canada. FVGC has been participating actively in the following SETs.

### **SUSTAINABILITY SECTOR ENGAGEMENT TABLE**

The Sustainability Table (SSET) supports the resilience of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector over the long term by providing a forum for ongoing and deliberative dialogue between industry, governments and other stakeholders on approaches to address environmental issues facing the sector (such as climate change, biodiversity, water)

FVGC has been working on the SSET since its introduction. Issue-specific working groups have been established to advance the work of the tables, including the Information and Education Working Group, co-chaired by FVGC. The Working Group has been tasked with reviewing initiatives and developing project plans for initiatives as discussed by the Sustainability Table such as the development and adoptions of education tools to drive BMP adoption on climate change and adaptation, biodiversity, soil health and water.

FVGC looks forward to engaging on behalf of our members with the government through this initiative.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TABLE**

The mandate of this Table applies to primary agriculture and agri-food, food and beverage processing and input and service suppliers (such as agriculture equipment manufacturing) and aims to:

- Gain a shared understanding of skills requirements in relation to chronic job vacancies as well as priorities for future skills;
- Identify potential career pathways connecting jobs to alternative training/careers;
- Identify new, innovative and flexible training options, to educate and train, and to re-skill and upskill the workforce; and
- To support renewal by identifying opportunities for young people and new entrants, Indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups.

### **AGILE REGULATIONS TABLE**

The agriculture and agri-food regulatory system embraces continuous improvement, striking a balance between meeting regulatory objectives and resolving irritants. The Table identified three key result areas:

- Exploring ways to make the regulatory system easier to navigate
- Providing analytical capacity to better understand cumulative and economic impacts of regulations and how they are administered across the sector
- Contributing to regulatory experimentation and foresight

Some highlights over the year include the development of a Journey Mapping Toolkit, very useful to help all parties understand the steps and critical points when applying or modifying regulations, and the use of a drone-based pesticide application experiment as an example of regulatory experimentation.

### HORTICULTURE TABLE

After a few years of hiatus due to COVID-19, the Horticulture Table was launched again in December 2022. Members of the Table consist of representatives from edible and ornamental horticulture, and were brought up to date on work in the areas of environment, labour, and others mentioned in the original work plan developed in 2019. The priorities will need to be updated and streamlined to avoid duplication. FVGC looks forward to the discussions on the role this table should play to help the horticulture sector within the SET framework as well as the broader context.

## CONSUMER DEMAND AND MARKET TRENDS

AAFC launched the Consumer Demand and Market Trends Table in April 2021, in order to:

- Better understand domestic and international consumer values, preferences and expectations
- Identify market trends and growth opportunities
- Discuss approaches to building public trust

Crop protection issues occasionally arise at this table, especially concerning consumer opinions on pesticides and public trust. FVGC continues to monitor and participate in the activities of this round table.

## TENDER FRUIT UPDATE

The 2022 season saw increased volumes from 2021, exceeding original estimates, in most tender fruit commodities. However, frost damage did affect growers in isolated areas outside of the major producing region. Of note, was a significantly larger pear crop due primarily to timely rains resulting in exceptional sizing. An increase in pricing to help offset escalating input costs pressures across most commodities was realized. Exceptional quality and flavour resulted in swift movement with excellent supply chain support from marketer to retail to consumer. New variety development over the past several years has resulted in the commercial release of several early ripening peaches. Variety development to address climate change pressures will be a priority in the coming years.

## TABLE GRAPES UPDATE

Ontario's main table grape variety is Sovereign Coronation which returned to an average sized crop in 2022, from the exceptionally large volumes of 2021. Similar to tender fruit, movement was excellent and prices up slightly from 2021. Packaging costs continue to be a challenge as growers transition to more environmentally friendly options. New variety development continues to be a priority for the industry and testing varieties for their climate change resilience and marketability.

## 2022 PROCESSING GRAPE HARVEST UPDATE

Wines from the 2022 vintage will be of excellent quality, but in short supply, as the crop came in at 59% of the five-year average at 45,954 tonnes and a decline in \$62.3 million farm gate value. Icewine registrations are down significantly to 763 tonnes with grapes in high demand for table wines due to the smaller crop, as compared with the 2021 harvest of 82,415 tonnes and \$111.4 million farm gate value.

Heading into 2022, vines were weakened by a perfect storm of events in 2021, particularly in the Niagara Region. A drought through August 2021 stressed the vines, followed by 49% more rain in September and October than the ten-year average. The vines were full of water, and a later-than-normal 2021 harvest and mild December meant that the vines did not acclimate fully for winter. This was followed by extremely cold temperatures through January, resulting in severe winter damage and vine loss in many vineyards. Vine collapse and complete removal of vineyards represent significant financial losses for growers in terms of additional costs to manage the vineyard. Growers face a long road ahead as vines/vineyards need to be replanted with hard-to-source clean vines that can take five years to reach mature production.



The 2022 spring was cooler than usual, but the summer months were warm and dry, with the season progressing well. Heavy rain at the end of summer forced some growers to harvest early, but fall harvest conditions were favorable resulting in excellent-quality grapes.

Lake Erie North Shore fared better with ideal conditions and a normal yield. Prince Edward County experienced similar conditions to Niagara, with a reduction in yield, however, less vine damage as growers typically bury the vines or use geotextiles to protect vineyards from the harsher winter temperatures in that region.

After a few years of hiatus due to COVID-19, the Horticulture Table was launched again in December 2022. Members of the Table consist of representatives from edible and ornamental horticulture

Grape Growers of Ontario hosted vineyard tours to survey the winter injury with Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and MP Kody Blois, Chair of AGRI Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. We continue to work closely with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Agricorp on this issue.

## BERRY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Members of the Berry Working Group met last spring to review priority issues brought up at FVGC's Annual General Meeting, and to discuss how best to collaborate in support of the sector. Members also reviewed bee health and the pollination policy. The Pollinator Task Force established in 2021 has been actively working on setting both national and provincial industry issues alongside representatives from the Working Group. Other policy priorities that have been worked on throughout the year include ensuring access to stable labour, funding for essential crop protection products, and improving trade access.

In recent years the Berry Working Group has worked to identify areas where our diverse group could coordinate research efforts. This work culminated in the recent exercise to establish priorities for

the new federal-provincial funding framework. The area of proposed research that was approved for the FVGC cluster application was the Canadian Berry Trial Network, breeding and trialing new varieties that are suitable for our Canadian climate remains a priority to berry growers.

## APPLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The AWG met via Zoom on March 2nd for their annual meeting, and again in-person on August 3rd in Bowmanville, ON, for the mid-summer meeting.

### Mid-Summer Apple Meeting

The FVGC Apple Working Group Mid-Summer Meeting was held on August 3 in Bowmanville and was hosted by the Ontario Apple Growers (OAG). The working session included discussions on market situations and trends, crop estimate, FVGC activity update, crop protection, research projects, and export priorities. The AWG also worked with DRC and reviewed and finalized the apple grade standards as required by CFIA. The AWG enjoyed a group dinner at Nature's Bounty Orchards, and everyone joined the OAG Orchard Tour on August 4th. The tour visited three orchards and a packing facility with 200 growers and industry stakeholders in attendance. The 2023 AWG Mid-Summer meeting will be held in Nova Scotia in late July.

### Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture

In preparation for the next AgriScience Cluster funding programs, the AWG updated our national research priorities and issued a request for proposals in 2021. In 2022, we reviewed the project proposals and chose three projects to be included in the Cluster submission.

## FIELD VEGETABLE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Field Vegetable Working Group met to discuss issues impacting growers. During these conversations, main priorities included the evaluation of Cluster 4 Research Projects for Field Vegetables, crop protection issues, specifically alternatives to chlorpyrifos; ongoing challenges related to the availability of temporary foreign workers on field vegetable farms; and finally, the removal of grade inspections for onions exported to the United States.

Moving forward into the year ahead, working group members will collaborate on priority issues for the sector. This includes following the Cluster 3 Research Projects coming to an end, identifying alternatives to crop protection products being phased out, and better collaborating with other working groups on issues involving field vegetable production.

# CROP PROFILES

In partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s Pest Management Centre (PMC), FVGC coordinates the review and updating of Crop Profiles. These are documents that provide a high-level overview of production and a more detailed look at pest management practices for a variety of agricultural crops in Canada. Each crop profile is updated every three years. In 2022-2023, FVGC worked with PMC and industry to update the following crop profiles:

- Raspberry
- Strawberry
- Cherry (sweet & tart)
- Peach
- Cranberry
- Apple
- Grape
- Pear







# CANADIAN GREENHOUSE VEGETABLE SECTOR

Greenhouse fruit and vegetables are grown on over 892 farms across Canada. The greenhouse vegetable sector contributes an estimated \$4.0 billion to Canada's economy, supports over 30,500 jobs within the supply-chain, and drives steady annual increases in farm gate sales which totalled over \$2 billion in 2021.

## NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group (GVWG) and Research Working Group were active throughout the year to advance national priorities, create momentum on our strategic objectives and address emerging issues. The Research Working Group provided a new forum for the collaboration and regional expertise needed to move ahead with the Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture application with national support.

In late 2021, our review of the national greenhouse vegetable research priorities recognized the value of the existing research facilities and the critical mass of highly qualified personnel located across Canada. However, we also identified the need for a research network, or central hub, that brings together stakeholders and enables a sector-specific roadmap in response to the federal government's goals for climate action, food security, and economic resiliency.

In 2022, FVGC led a national roundtable conversation with the full support of our greenhouse vegetable members and in partnership with Rupp Carriveau, Director of the Environmental Energy Institute at the University of Windsor. Through a series of 1-hour virtual and in-person "PowerHour" sessions, key stakeholders were invited to help inform the development of a Canadian Greenhouse Excellence Network (CGEN). The CGEN Ottawa Summit held in mid-February 2023, brought together Canadian greenhouse vegetable growers, allied industry, academia, government policymakers, and elected officials to launch the network and take the next steps in CGEN strategic planning and capacity building.

**The Research Working Group provided a new forum for the collaboration and regional expertise needed to move ahead with the Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture application with national support.**

## REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND CONSULTATIONS

As a sector that continues to innovate and modernize, it is extremely important to remain engaged, influence policy, and inform regulatory decisions so that the federal government's lens reflects real business practices and aligns with the sector's strategies for growth, competitiveness, and sustainability.

## GRADE STANDARDS

In efforts to finalize the greenhouse grades review work started in 2019, the Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group responded to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) What We Heard report from the 2021 Public Consultation. Under the leadership of the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC), the Greenhouse



Grades Review Team continues to review and discuss CFIA's comments and questions, propose potential solutions, and make consensus-based recommendations to allow publication of the grades.

## FEDERAL CARBON PRICING

*The Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA)* provides relief from the federal fuel charge via exemption certificates for eligible activities: for farmers (gas, diesel – applied at 100%) and for greenhouse operators (natural gas, propane – applied at 80%). When the 80% relief was initially provided in 2018, the federal carbon price was set at \$20 per tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). As the federal carbon price rises, the absolute dollar value of that 20% tax paid by greenhouse operators will grow so substantially that the original intent of the relief will be negated.

Unfortunately, the federal fuel charge is not having the intended effect of changing behaviour, reducing emissions and transitioning to net-zero. In our submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food (AGRI) to advocate for Private Member's Bill C-234 *An Act to amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA)* and in a pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance (FINA), we focused on key regulatory recommendations and our ask to develop the Canadian Greenhouse Excellence Network to help to inform and align government policy decisions with necessary public infrastructure and private business investment, both now and into the future.

## ToBRFV

The Greenhouse Vegetable Working Group sought regulatory support to help manage the emerging, global plant viruses, and specifically the Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV).

- The greenhouse vegetable sector demonstrated leadership as Canadian and international experts came together to share current research, expertise, and management strategies at the ToBRFV Research Symposium, held in August 2022 in Toronto hosted by OMAFRA, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers, Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, Flowers Canada Growers and with the support of the Government of Canada.
- A submission to Health Canada's proposed Biocides Regulations consultation, and a letter to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) sought regulatory support to help manage the virus with disinfectants and sanitizers for plant pathogens, within a clear and responsive registration pathway.
- The NAPPO Expert Group: Seeds ToBRFV provided an update on the pilot project for harmonization of diagnostic protocols for seed pests, focused on ToBRFV.

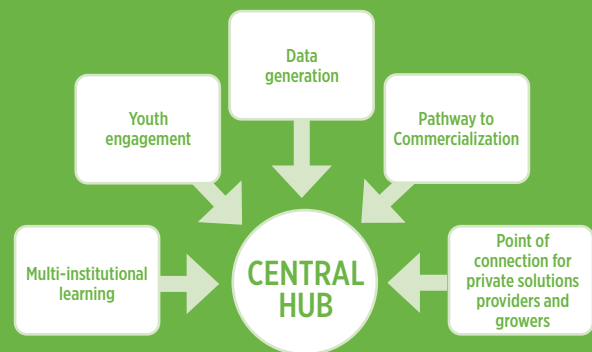
## PROTECTED AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP STANDARDS

In 2022, the start of implementation efforts of the Protected Agriculture Stewardship (PAS) Standards saw an increase in outreach communications, materials, and workshops to support

# LOOKING AHEAD

We expect that in the upcoming year further development of the Canadian Greenhouse Excellence Network (CGEN) will begin to provide tangible benefits to the sector.

The aim of the Canadian Greenhouse Excellence Network is to offer stakeholders new ways to connect, collaborate, validate and commercialize from the basis of grower-identified challenges and opportunities.



Looking ahead, the Greenhouse Task Force (GTF), a forum for sector representatives to meet with CFIA and AAFC, expects to review and update the proposal for the regulation of ToBRFV in Canada, and take steps towards a systems approach to reduce risk throughout the supply-chain (seed, propagators, growers). More broadly, we are seeking discussions about regulatory options and solutions such as a perimeter strategy to harmonize and mutually protect our trade relationship with the USA.

growers. Growers are encouraged to register as soon as possible, through the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA) site, to signal their commitment to excellence and responsible pesticide use. Registration facilitates growers' direct contact with their local auditor(s) to review audit requirements, determine mutually agreeable scheduling, and discuss any compliance questions.

A third-party audit will validate that the closed recirculation system(s) and other measures are sufficient to prevent releases, effluent, or runoff containing registered pest control products (PCPs) from entering surface waters. Certification is required for facilities with closed-loop recirculation by May 19, 2023 (as per imidacloprid label), and for all other PCP registered products labelled for greenhouse use, by December 31, 2023.

# CANADIAN POTATO COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) is supported by the membership of eleven provincial potato grower organizations from eight provinces to represent potato growers on issues of national significance. Some of our activities over the past year are reported below.

The CPC met virtually in both March and July 2021. In December 2021, public health regulations allowed the CPC to meet both in-person and virtually in Ottawa for the first time since the start of the pandemic providing the opportunity to reconnect with one another. Virtual-only meetings returned in March 2022 for the CPC and FVGC Annual meetings. The CPC was able to meet in person in July 2022. CPC Working Groups continued to meet virtually and demonstrated progress on objectives. All export market development activities under Potatoes Canada (growers in Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are funding partners) that were focused on attendance at tradeshows were canceled this year due to travel restrictions.

## POLICY AND REGULATION

The Potato Grade Standards were reviewed by an Industry Working Group and this work was completed and submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in March 2022. The proposed amended Grade Standard for potatoes remain on-hold as the CFIA has yet to provide comment back to the Working Group; nor has it made any progress to open public consultation. This frustrating delay by the government has likely pushed back the implementation of revised grade standards for potatoes until at least the 2024 crop year.

An industry/CFIA Working Group continues to review with the objective of modernization, the Seed Regulations related to seed potatoes (Part II). Following a stakeholder survey, work commenced on an in-depth review of various aspects of the Regulations through the establishment of small-group, industry-led Task Teams (TTs). The first TT examined aspects of seed certification and has now reported back their recommendations to the Working Group. Work is now progressing well on the Variety Registration TT and is expected to be completed in early 2023. In total, eight TTs will closely examine various aspects of the Regulations, and those additional TTs include: Traceability, Movement, Field Inspection, Grading, Import & Export,

and Testing. The full Working Group recommendations are expected to go out for public consultation in the Fall of 2023.

## POTATO WART

As of July 2022, potato wart has been found in 35 fields in PEI since 2000. As a result of two additional detections in October 2021 in processing potato fields that were already under regulation, the movement of seed potatoes and fresh potatoes from PEI to the United States was suspended by the CFIA. Also in November 2021, a Ministerial Order was put in place to prevent the spread of potato wart to the rest of Canada and abroad and to address the associated risks. The Order restricts the domestic movement of seed potatoes from PEI. New risk mitigation measures for potatoes leaving PEI including table stock and processing potatoes, as well as other regulated 'things' (soil, sod, farming equipment) were introduced by the CFIA. On April 1, 2022, the USA announced that imports of PEI potatoes for consumption could resume with conditions. Exports to the USA of field-grown seed potatoes from PEI continued to be prohibited.

Throughout 2022, the CPC has been representing the national interests of potato growers on various government initiatives on the regulation and management of potato wart in Prince Edward Island. An International Expert Panel of potato wart scientists and regulators was formed by the CFIA to provide independent advice and recommendations on the management of land in PEI. The five Panel members visited PEI in August 2022 to gain an understanding of the situation there. The CPC had the opportunity to present perspectives





of the uncertainty of risks associated with potato wart for the national potato sector. The CPC also has representation on the Resource Group to the Panel, which has the role of providing information to the Panel and clarifying any questions that they may have. The Expert Panel provided the final report to the CFIA in December 2022. Further, the CPC is represented on a Working Group that is reviewing the Potato Wart Domestic Long-Term Management Plan that guides the regulation and management of infested and associated fields on PEI. The review of the Plan is critical to consider potential gaps and implement mitigation measures to prevent further spread of potato wart on PEI. This Working Group will continue to review the Plan into 2023.

To maintain the Pest Free Area from potato wart in provinces outside of PEI, the CFIA initiated a National Potato Wart Survey in the Fall of 2021 where 1,021 soil samples were tested and all were negative for potato wart. Approximately 1,500 soil samples were collected in the fall of 2022 from across Canada (except for PEI and Newfoundland) and are awaiting analysis. The 2022 survey once again focussed on seed potato farms with previous links to PEI seed potatoes. The survey is critical to maintaining the potato wart-free status of areas outside of PEI and providing confidence to our trading partners.

## POTATO RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Progress continued in eight potato projects (Colorado potato beetle, late blight, necrotic viruses, variety evaluation, smart farming, wireworm, potato early dying) funded under the AAFC Canadian Research Cluster for Horticulture 3 with the fifth and last field season wrapping up for completion by the end of March 2023.

The CPC Research Working Group continued to implement the Potato Cluster 3 Knowledge Transfer Plan which included the following activities:

- Following the publication of a Cluster 3 overview article and the wireworm project last year in *SpudSmart* magazine, this collaboration continued with articles on all projects now published (late blight/winter 2021; smart farming/spring 2021; Colorado potato beetle/summer 2021; variety evaluation/fall 2021; common scab/winter 2022; potato early dying/spring 2022; necrotic viruses summer 2022).
- Webinars on the wireworm (November 2020), late blight (March 2021) and potato early dying (March 2022) projects;
- Maintenance of the bilingual Canadian Potato Research Cluster website ([potatoresearchcluster.ca](http://potatoresearchcluster.ca)) which growers are encouraged to visit to access detailed research project reports.

The CPC Research Working Group has been very active over the past year in identifying national research priorities for potatoes for the next funding cycle (2023-2028) under Cluster 4. The CPC *Potato Research and Innovation Strategy* was revised to include priorities for the period 2023-2028. Twenty-four Expressions of Interest (EOIs) were received for potatoes. The EOIs were screened against the Cluster program criteria and those that were selected advanced to the full proposal stage. Many EOIs with similar objectives were combined into single proposals to provide wide-ranging expertise and geographic representation. Three large proposals advanced to the Cluster application, and were submitted in January 2023.

- National Potato Variety Evaluation for Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Change;
- Regenerative and sustainable agriculture for climate change adaptation and carbon sequestration: rebuilding soil health and increasing crop productivity of Canadian potato production systems;
- Positioning Canada's Potato Industry for Improved Sustainable Production.

The Alliance for Potato Research and Education (APRE) is funded by Canadian processing growers (PE, NB, MB, AB) along with USA grower counterparts and the major processing companies. Independent clinical research trials are funded each year that investigate the nutritional and health benefits of potatoes in the diet. There are now twenty-nine funded clinical studies published in peer-reviewed journals, six review articles and commentaries have been published and thirteen are in progress. Four additional new studies were funded in 2022. This research is critical to the promotion of potatoes as part of a healthy diet which will contribute to an overall increase in consumption. Please visit the APRE website at <https://apre.org/>.

## CROP PROTECTION IN POTATOES

The CPC had in previous years responded to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Proposed Re-evaluation Decision consultations that proposed the cancellation of many products

that would negatively impact potato growers in Canada. Many products were proposed to be canceled on potatoes, but after public consultation and submissions by all stakeholders, including the CPC, some positive outcomes were communicated in Final Re-evaluation Decisions that allowed continued use on potatoes with risk mitigation measures implemented: lambda-cyhalothrin (Matador/Silencer Insecticide); cymoxanil (Curzate/Tanos Fungicide); cyromazine (Governor Insecticide) and dimethomorph (Acrobat/Zampros).

PMRA unexpectedly announced a Special Review of chlorothalonil (Bravo/Echo) fungicide based on risks to human health and the environment. CPC conducted a grower survey of use that resulted in excellent grower response with 186 farms completing the survey that represented approximately 30% of the Canadian potato acreage. A CPC response to the public consultation was submitted in May 2022. The information submitted is critical for the PMRA to refine their risk assessments that in the absence of data rely on extremely conservative inputs, and the CPC thanks all growers that participated in the survey!

CPC, along with FVGC, successfully advocated for growers at PMRA to resolve with the registrant a regulatory issue associated with linuron (Lorox L Herbicide), allowing product registration and availability for the 2022 use season.



## LOOKING AHEAD

- Development of knowledge transfer tools communicating the outcomes of the completed Cluster3 potato research projects to growers;
- Initiation of Cluster4 potato research projects if accepted for funding by AAFC;
- Grower use information gathering for anticipated proposed re-evaluation decisions consultations (s-metolachlor/Dual, Boundary Herbicides; azoxystrobin/Quadris Fungicide; abamectin/Agri-Mek, Minecto Pro Insecticides) and the initiation of chlorpropham (CIPC) re-evaluation by PMRA in fiscal April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024;
- Completion of CFIA requirements for potato grade standards and advancement to public consultation;
- Completion of review of the Potato Wart Domestic Long Term Management Plan and submission of Working Group recommendations to the CFIA;
- In early 2023, CFIA initiated a Working Group Workshop series with the goal of reaching a common understanding of the science and regulatory triggers that lead the CFIA to declaring a field as 'detected' for the pathogen causing potato wart and to explore the potential for improvements and/or advancements where possible



# RESEARCH

FVGC supports innovation in the Canadian fruit and vegetable sector by managing funding applications and subsequent research projects that address the sector's top priorities.

## CANADIAN AGRISCIENCE CLUSTER FOR HORTICULTURE 3

With an investment of nearly \$21 million (\$13 million by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and \$8 million by industry) over five years, Cluster 3 brings expertise from academia, industry and government together on 16 projects across five commodity groups (apple, berry, greenhouse vegetables, potato and field vegetables).

## 2022 IN REVIEW

2022-23 marks the fifth and final project year. Cluster 3 activities are progressing, nearing the end of the funding cycle, with positive results and successes on the horizon.

In Spring 2022, FVGC published *An Update on the Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture 3 – an insert from Fresh Thinking Magazine Spring 2022*. Semi-Annual Updates to industry are also posted on the FVGC website <https://fvgc.ca/projects-and-programs/current-projects/> and on the Canadian Potato Research Cluster website [www.potatoresearchcluster.ca](http://www.potatoresearchcluster.ca).

*The Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 3 is funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative, with support from the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada (formerly the Canadian Horticultural Council) and industry contributors.*



Canada



FRUIT & VEGETABLE  
GROWERS  
OF CANADA | PRODUCTEURS  
DE FRUITS ET LÉGUMES  
DU CANADA



## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES: CLUSTER 4

Throughout 2022, FVGC has been actively preparing for the opportunity to establish a fourth Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) next agricultural policy framework for 2023-2028.

Below is a timeline summary of activities undertaken in preparation for Cluster 4 application:

- Fall 2021 – Research and Innovation Priority documents updated for each of the 5 commodity groups, through a series of Zoom meetings
- Fall 2021-Winter 2022 – Expressions of Interest – 87 received with a total value of \$75.7 million
- February - April 2022 – commodity groups reviewed EOIs via 19 Zoom meetings
- March 2022 – AAFC meeting to update on Cluster 4 program requirements
- April-June 2022 – 27 Request for Proposals sent
- Spring-Summer 2022 - Cluster team staffing discussions internally regarding Cluster team make-up for next 5 years, how the cost-sharing change will affect the overall project management/administration budget, how to best achieve the activities required with current and possible future staff, etc.
- Spring – Fall 2022 – ongoing discussions and collaborations with other clusters, including hosting 2 Zoom meetings and co-signing 2 letters to Minister Bibeau
- Summer-Fall 2022 – Peer Review process – 47 reviews completed, obtaining over and above the required total reviews, 227 potential reviewers contacted for those 47 reviews
- Fall 2022 – 24 proposal review Zoom meetings with commodity groups and researchers
- October 2022 – establishment of Science Advisory Body; meetings December 16 and January 11
- November-December 2022 – commodity working groups made final selections of proposals to move forward in Cluster 4 application process



On January 19, 2023, FVGC submitted an application to AAFC to establish the Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture 4. The following list of research activities were included in the application:

<b>Commodity &amp; Lead Researcher</b>	<b>Activity Title</b>	<b>AAFC Priority Area</b>
Apple - Blatt	Reducing losses from apple pests with alternative control strategies	Climate Change & Environment - Greenhouse Gas Reduction
Apple - Cline	Apple crop load management: Enhancing thinning predictability and tree response through advancements in physiology, products, and precision thinning approaches	Economic Growth & Development
Apple - DeEll	Mitigating the increase of physiological disorders in apples due to climate change and late harvest timing	Climate Change & Environment
Berry - Amyotte	Canadian Berry Trial Network	Economic Growth & Development
Field Vegetable - Blatt	Novel pest management strategy for cucumber beetle control in squash and watermelon	Climate Change & Environment - Greenhouse Gas Reduction
Field Vegetable - Filion	Increasing field vegetable yield and resilience to abiotic and biotic stresses through soil microbial engineering	Climate Change & Environment
Field Vegetable - Prasad	Reduced risk strategies for cabbage maggot control	Climate Change & Environment
Field Vegetable - Rouet	Optimizing Canada's asparagus breeding program by implementing new biotechnologies and high-throughput phenotyping to develop improved varieties for growers and consumers	Economic Growth & Development
Field Vegetable - Van Acker	Evaluation of fresh and processing quality of parthenocarpic and downy mildew tolerant cucumber varieties grown in the field	Economic Growth & Development
Greenhouse Vegetable - Labbe	Developing a systems approach to pest management on greenhouse tomato	Economic Growth & Development
Greenhouse Vegetable - Wang	Novel approaches for the management of Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV)	Economic Growth & Development
Potato - Fava	National Potato Variety Evaluation for Sustainability, Resilience and Climate Change	Sector Resilience & Societal Challenges
Potato - Goyer	Regenerative and sustainable agriculture for climate change adaptation and carbon sequestration: rebuilding soil health and increasing crop productivity of Canadian potato production systems	Climate Change & Environment - Carbon Sequestration
Potato - Tenuta	Positioning Canada's Potato Industry for Improved Sustainable Production	Climate Change & Environment - Greenhouse Gas Reduction

## CLUSTER 4 APPLICATION DETAILS

- Total anticipated budget: \$22,656,735
- Anticipated AAFC contribution: \$12,666,584
- Industry/other government contribution: \$9,990,151
- 14 research activities
- 44 research institutions
- 82 researchers

FVGC will lead three additional non-research activities: Science Coordination, Knowledge and Technology Transfer, and Impact Assessment.

For more information on the Cluster 4 application visit the Cluster 4 page on our website.

# COMMUNICATION REPORT

FVGC aims to deliver a strategic and comprehensive communications plan that ensures that members are kept informed of the important work that FVGC is doing on your behalf, as well as information that will be helpful to your organizations and members. At the same time, FVGC strengthens our advocacy work with a strong communications plan aimed at Government, the general public, and our industry partners.

In 2022, FVGC issued 64 Member Notes in both official languages. We sent nine *On Your Behalf* reports exclusively to our members and associate members with important information on the advocacy efforts of FVGC and our accomplishments each month. Additionally, we distributed seven updates in the form of our *HortShorts* newsletter, reaching an audience of over 670 subscribers.

*Fresh Thinking* is FVGC's free bilingual print publication. It is published twice a year, in the spring and the fall, and features high-level industry perspectives and useful tips for growers. Five thousand copies of each issue are distributed across Canada, the U.S.A, and internationally. As an added bonus, the magazine even generates a small amount of revenue for FVGC. Each issue of *Fresh Thinking* is themed to strategic priorities. It is also available online.

This past year, we regularly created opportunities for two-way communication with our members through surveys and by requesting your input for various government consultations and roundtables on a variety of issues. We would like to send a special thank you to our members who provided their input and insight on important issues, and who shared our communications with growers, helping them to remain informed about developments in our sector.

We have been working on building a strong social media presence with our Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. This is a way to engage not only our members but also Government representatives, industry stakeholders and all Canadians who should have an interest in a strong and stable fresh fruit and vegetable sector. On Twitter we counted over 80,000 impressions, 1,313 total followers (185 of them new in 2022) and 21,000 profile visits. We made 228 Tweets. On LinkedIn, we made 15,427 impressions, with a total of 1,510 total followers (823 of whom were new in 2022). We had 2000 profile visits.

At the end of 2022, FVGC launched a new strategic initiative, a series of Fireside Chat videos, aimed at bringing information to our members in a format that can be easily consumed and shared. Adding varied content like informative videos to share with members and the general public is useful as we continue to build our social media presence on Twitter and LinkedIn, and look for ways that we can meaningfully engage the public on the importance of the fresh fruit and vegetable sector in Canada.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We look forward to continuing with our tried-and-true communication strategies, like our *Member Notes*, *On Your Behalf* and *HortShorts*. However, we always want to hear from our members about what communications work best for them. Let us know what you like, what you don't like, and what could be improved upon. We are excited to continue building our social media presence so that we can be a strong voice for fruit and vegetable growers on platforms that matter to decisions makers. With this in mind, we are enthusiastic about new initiatives, such as our Fireside Chat series, which helps us in getting our message out to the people who need

to hear it, in a fresh and easy-to-consume way. We are tracking our metrics to ensure that we continually improve, and have a strong base of social media followers that we can rely on for support when we are advocating important issues on your behalf.

Communication is one of our greatest tools to achieve our goals, both with our membership and with all stakeholders. We are committed to continually adapting and improving our programs to ensure we are delivering you relevant information, as needed, to improve our industry.



# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FEEDING CANADA AND THE WORLD!

In 2022 FVGC celebrated 100 years of resiliency, growth, and opportunity. Growers came together in 1922 with a unified mission of advancing “...all matters tending toward the improvement of the horticultural industry in Canada.”

We have been lucky enough to have some wonderful leadership over the years, beginning in 1922 with the first Secretary of the Canadian Horticultural Council. A history of the CHC written for our 50th anniversary claims that it “...must have been a combination of enthusiasm, confidence and daredevil spirit that caused ‘Les’ Burrows to accept the appointment as Secretary of an organization that did not yet exist, which did not have any money, and in which even the founding fathers did not seem to be overly confident.” Whatever it was, it led us to where we are now – right on the edge of another 100 years of feeding Canada and the world.

Since Mr. Burrows, we have had many fine leaders in his place, each giving something of themselves to their presidency and each taking something different away from the experience of speaking for Canadian growers.

Thank you to all of our Past Presidents, and the Boards with which they served, for the advocacy, insight and innovation.



## MESSAGES FROM PAST PRESIDENTS

Some of our past presidents have shared messages with us to celebrate our centennial. You can read the full messages on our website. Below, are some excerpts:

“Always remember, your success is with the organization not one individual. Your success is because of your membership.”

Ken Porteous, President, 2007-2008

“Over the past 100 years CHC [FVGC] has been a strong voice to federal authorities on behalf of Canadian horticultural producers. I wish FVGC a long life as the horticultural industry has a bright future.”

Jean-Claude Tessier, President, 1994-1995

“They say there is never an objection to price when there is a perception of value. There had been ongoing disagreement over equitable cost-sharing for the Canadian Horticultural Council between member organizations. During the year 2012/2013, two things happened which changed perceptions... The demonstrated value of effective lobbying, combined with a Strategic Plan, set the organization on course for future success.”

Murray Porteous, President, 2012-2013

“This issue [of minor use crop protection products] unified horticultural producers across Canada! After many discussions with government decision makers and continued support from the CHC, we succeeded in developing a much-improved Minor Use Program for “small crops” in Canada which allowed for a new direction in cross border harmonization of registration of new products. This has permitted broader access to many newer technologies that we may never have seen in Canada.”

Penny Gamble, President, 2001-2002





## CROSS-COUNTRY CENTENNIAL TOUR

In the summer of 2022, FVGC embarked on a cross-country tour to celebrate 100 years of representing fruit and vegetable growers across the country.

This tour was an opportunity for FVGC to connect with the growers we represent to help better inform our advocacy efforts.

We were lucky enough to be able to make stops in eight provinces. Thank you to the following farms, agricultural businesses, and research centres for hosting us along the way:

- Black Fox Distillery (SK)
- Barrich Farms (SK)
- Cameron Farms (PEI)
- Canada SK Irrigation Diversification Centre (SK)
- Connery Farms (MB)
- Crop Diversification Centre North (AB)
- Heppell's Farm (BC)
- Keddy Farms (NS)
- Island Vegetable Co-operative Association (BC)
- Mackenzie Produce (PEI)
- PEI Potato Board (PEI)
- Power Farms (NS)
- Randsland Farms (NS)
- Simplot (MB)
- Spring Creek Garden (SK)
- Vermeulen Farms (NS)
- Wyman's (PEI)



We also had the opportunity to join our members and associates at meetings and celebrations throughout the year. Thank you to the following organizations for welcoming us to your events:

- APMQ's 2022 Annual General Meeting
- Canadian Produce Marketing Association's Semi-Annual Board Meeting
- FVGC Mid-Summer Apple Group Meeting and Orchard Tour
- FVGC Quebec Caucus
- Grape Growers of Ontario's 75th Anniversary
- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association Summer Orchard Tour
- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association's Annual Convention
- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association Annual General Meeting
- Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers' Annual General Meeting
- Peak of the Market's 80th anniversary celebration
- Quebec Potato Growers' Harvest Banquet
- Quebec Produce Marketing Association's 75th Convention
- Seeds Canada Annual General Meeting
- Scotia Horticultural Congress
- The Canadian Potato Council's Summer Meeting



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS! THIS TOUR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.**





## **Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada**

2200 Prince of Wales Dr., Suite 102  
Ottawa, ON K2E 6Z9

[www.fvgc.ca](http://www.fvgc.ca)

[admin@fvgc.ca](mailto:admin@fvgc.ca)

(t) 613-226-4880

(f) 613-226-4497

