

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient

THE GROWING FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE

SCHEDULE 1 COMMODITY CATEGORY: APPLES

For Interpretation of this Schedule “1” of the Guidelines please see section 9 of the Guidelines.

1. PURPOSE OF COMMODITY CATEGORY

The purpose of the Apple Commodity Category is to replant apple trees that improve apple quality, increase production and/or increase marketability.

2. TERM OF COMMODITY CATEGORY

See section 2 of the Guidelines.

3. FUNDING FOR PROJECT CATEGORY

A Recipient is eligible to receive seventy-five percent (75%) of Eligible Costs up to a maximum of fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000) under the Initiative across all Commodity Categories.

4. OPERATION OF THE COMMODITY CATEGORY

4.1 Eligible And Ineligible Activities Under The Commodity Category

4.1.1 Eligible Activities

The following activities are eligible under the Commodity Category:

- (a) The planting of a new (i.e. different) apple tree variety or sport in a block or row to replace an apple tree variety or sport that was pulled out.
 - i. Existing apple trees or location of apple trees must have been in commercial production within the last three (3) years.

- ii. The replacement variety or sport must have been reviewed by the Applicants' packer/broker and align with Applicant's marketing plan.
- iii. The new nursery stock must use high density planting at a minimum density of 900 trees per acre

4.1.2 Ineligible Activities

The following activities are ineligible under this Commodity Category:

- (a) The replacement of existing apple trees with the same variety or sport of apple tree or with a commodity from a different commodity category.
- (b) The planting of new production ground.
- (c) Interplanting or replacing individual trees within existing orchard.
- (d) Apple nursery stock planted in the same location funded through any other government programs.
- (e) Nursery stock ordered before October 30, 2023.
- (f) Any other activity not set out under section 4.1.1 of this Schedule "1" of the Guidelines.

4.2 Eligible Costs And Ineligible Costs Under Commodity Category

4.2.1 Eligible Costs

The following costs are eligible for the purposes of this Commodity Category, provided they were reasonably incurred and necessary to complete the Recipient's Project:

- (a) Costs that were incurred on or after October 30, 2023 but before the Project completion date or December 31, 2026, whichever comes sooner;
- (b) Costs that reflect the actual costs to the Recipient, less any costs, including taxes, for which the Recipient has received, will receive or is eligible to receive, a rebate, credit or refund; and
- (c) Cost of nursery stock that are a different variety or sport of apple trees being replaced.

4.2.2 Ineligible Costs

The following costs are ineligible for the purposes of this Project Category:

- (a) Costs that were incurred before October 30, 2023 or after December 31, 2026 or the project completion date, whichever comes sooner;
- (b) Costs associated with preparing an Application Form and/or reporting materials for the Initiative;
- (c) Delivery or freight costs of nursery stock;

- (d) Planting/installation costs of nursery stock;
- (e) Trellis systems;
- (f) Removal costs of existing trees;
- (g) Expenses such as:
 - (i) Costs related to the Recipient's ordinary business operations or normal and ongoing operating and maintenance costs.
 - (ii) Common items that can be used for multiple purposes and not exclusively for the approved Project's purposes,
 - (iii) Activities which provide tax credits or rebates, and
 - (iv) Development and enforcement of regulations;
- (h) Purchase of vehicles;
- (i) Labour costs;
- (j) Any cost not specifically required for the execution of a Project;
- (k) Legal fees;
- (l) Costs related to activities that directly influence or lobby any level of government;
- (m) Costs of basic research;
- (n) Costs of ongoing activities;
- (o) Costs of training and skills development that fulfill any academic requirements towards completion of a professional certificate, diploma or degree program;
- (p) Costs of sponsorship of conferences and learning events or Initiatives;
- (q) Costs of travel, meals, and accommodations;
- (r) Consultant and other contractor expenses for any hospitality (e.g., provision of food or beverage at events), incidental or food;
- (s) Costs of permits, approvals or other such;
- (t) Costs of purchase, lease or sale of land, buildings or facilities or associated taxes or fees (e.g., land transfer tax);
- (u) Costs of new building construction (unless as otherwise specified under 4.2.1 Eligible Costs Under The Initiative);
- (v) Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges;
- (w) Costs of gifts and incentives;
- (x) Costs of hand or power tools or attachments;
- (y) Costs of maintenance or extended warranties;
- (z) Administration costs such as office supplies, materials, space, telecommunications, audiovisual, computers, printers, postage, and freight;
- (aa) Costs of multi-use electronic items (e.g., items that can reach beyond the scope of the Project such as computers, printers, etc.);
- (bb) Expenses for goods and services that are not acquired through a transaction with a third-party that is:
 - Transparent, fair and promotes the best value for the money expended at competitive prices no greater than fair market value after deducting available discounts; and

- At Arm's Length from the business as determined within the criteria set out in section 251 of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada);
- (cc) Costs related to the Recipient's ordinary business operations (e.g., day-to-day business operating expenses related directly to producing the goods or services sold by a business, to selling goods and services, costs of running a business);
- (dd) Any portion of any cost that, in AgriCorp's opinion, exceeds the fair market value for that cost item, such as amortization that would not result in a direct, out-of-pocket expense for the Recipient; and
- (ee) Any other costs that are not set out under section 4.2.1 of the Schedule 1 Guidelines.

4.3 Eligibility Requirements Under The Commodity Category

To be eligible to participate in this Commodity Category, an Applicant will meet the following requirements:

- (a) Be a Person that is a Primary Producer;
- (b) Provide its:
 - (i) CRA BN, or
 - (ii) SIN, but only if the Applicant has been found eligible to participate in the Initiative and is also eligible to receive an Initiative Payment;
- (c) Submit a completed Application Form to the AgriCorp in accordance with what is set out under section 4.4 of the Guidelines;
- (d) Is undertaking an activity set out in section 4.1.1 of this Schedule "1" of the Guidelines;
- (e) Have a valid and up to date Premises ID Number for the business location(s) where the Project is to take place. (To register for or update a Premises ID Number, visit the Provincial Premises Registry at www.ontariopid.com);
- (f) Have a:
 - (i) valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN),
 - (ii) an Order from the Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Appeal Tribunal exempting the Person from having to have a FBRN;
 - (iii) a letter from the Indian Agriculture Program of Ontario, or
 - (iv) an exemption from the income eligibility requirement of the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program, received from AgriCorp;
- (g) Be in compliance with the following for its business operations at the time of applying to the Initiative:
 - (i) Environmental-related Requirements Of Law,
 - (ii) Labour-related Requirements Of Law,
 - (iii) Tax-related Requirements Of Law, and
 - (iv) Material compliance with all other Requirements Of Law;

- (h) Is not, nor is any officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any), a current or former federal public office holder or federal public servant, or if the Applicant is, or any officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any) is, the Applicant, or that officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any) is in compliance with the Conflict of Interest Act (Canada), the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons (Canada), the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector (Canada) and the Policy on Conflict of Interest and Post-employment (Canada), as applicable;
- (i) Is not, nor is any officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any), a member of the House of Commons or the Senate, or, if the Applicant is, or any officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any) is, the Applicant, or the officer, director or employee of the Applicant (if any), is permitted under the Parliament of Canada Act (Canada) to receive funding from Canada under the Sustainable CAP;
- (j) Agrees that any intellectual property rights arising from their Project, should the Applicant be found to be eligible to participate in the Initiative as well as receive an Initiative Payment, belongs to the Applicant;
- (k) Agrees that Canada and Ontario may, should the Applicant be found to be eligible to participate in the Initiative as well as receive an Initiative Payment, publish information about the Applicant, including:
 - (i) Project-related information,
 - (ii) The Name of the Applicant,
 - (iii) The amount of funding Canada and Ontario provided, and
 - (iv) The outcome of the Project;
- (l) Agrees to the attestation in the Application Form;
- (m) Agrees to be bound by the terms, conditions and requirements of the Initiative, as set out in the Minister's Order, the Guidelines and the Approval Letter; and
- (n) Agrees to AgriCorp using information mapped by AgriCorp for Ontario Apple Growers and/or Ontario Tender Fruit contained in the Data Management System (DMS) for the purpose of evaluating eligibility and administering the Initiative.

4.4 Applying To The Project Category

Completed Application Forms and any other required documentation as per the relevant Project Category-specific Schedule will be accepted as of November 20, 2023 at 10:00 am on an ongoing basis until no later than December 31, 2025, subject to the availability of funding allocated to the Initiative.

4.5 Review Of Application, Evaluation Criteria And Notification

AgriCorp will review the Application Form to determine whether the Applicant is eligible to participate in the Commodity Category. Applicants will be notified if they submit an incomplete Application Form and receive an opportunity to resubmit. Resubmitted application forms will be added to the end of the queue.

Complete Application Forms will be evaluated **on a first-come, first-served basis**.

Applicants will be notified as funding decisions are reached.

Application Is Approved – The successful Applicant will receive an Approval Letter from AgriCorp via Email setting out the Project-specific requirements. The successful Applicant will have to reply to the Approval Letter setting out that they agree to be bound by the terms/conditions of the Initiative, as set out in the Approval Letter and this Guidelines, including the applicable Commodity Category Schedule.

The Approval Letter will include the following:

- (a) A reference number, which AgriCorp uses to refer to the specific Project;
- (b) The Project description;
- (c) The maximum amount of Funds and cost shared percentage approved;
- (d) The Eligible Costs;
- (e) The date the Recipient is required to complete its Project;
- (f) The Claim submission deadline; and
- (g) The final report submission information including deadline.

Application Is Declined – AgriCorp will contact the Applicant via Email and provide a brief explanation for its decision.

