Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

Indigenous Agriculture and Relationship Development – Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems

Program Guide

Version 4.0 (Updated for September 2025 intake)

Published: September 23, 2025

Manitoba

Canada

Contents

For any questions, you may contact the Program Administrator:

Sustainable CAP
agriculture@gov.mb.ca
1-800-811-4411

Section 1 - Program Description

The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) supports a wide variety of activities and strategic investments. This guide focuses on program activities directed towards community driven culturally relevant assistance to enhance Indigenous food systems and agriculture knowledge.

The Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems program support projects and activities that look to increase food security and food sovereignty, support the revitalization of traditional food systems, training, skill and resource development, climate change adaptation, and/or increase Indigenous participation within Manitoba's agriculture and agri-food sector.

Section 2 - Program Eligibility

The Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems program is open to the following First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Indigenous Groups, including:
- Businesses and organizations
- Communities
- Government
- Primary Producers
- Other Indigenous led groups undertaking agricultural initiatives

Eligible applicants:
- Can be from inside or outside of Manitoba, as long as the activities occur in Manitoba or have a positive outcome for the province and Indigenous peoples living in Manitoba.
  o Priority will be given to those applicants who operate or reside in Manitoba.
- Must ensure that they meet all eligibility requirements

A business or organization with multiple divisions, operating names or units, will count as one business or organization.

Government employees, who are the majority shareholder (50 per cent or higher) in a business or organization, are not eligible to apply for funding. A business or organization, which includes a provincial government employee as a minority shareholder, will be eligible to apply for funding.

Additional factors may be considered in determining the eligibility of the applicant, including:
- The provision of false or misleading information by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs
- Amounts due and owing by the applicant under other Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership and Manitoba programs

Section 3 - Funding Streams

The current intake of the Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems program includes the following funding streams:

- Planning and Consulting
- Training and Resource Development
- Capital Equipment and Software

Cost Share Funding

Activities are cost shared between government and the applicant. Cost share ratios and funding caps vary for each funding stream.

Project Length

- All projects shall start on **April 1, 2026**, or later.
- All projects must be completed, and reporting submitted, on or before **December 31, 2027**.
- Specific project start and end dates will be stated in the funding agreement.

All Sustainable CAP projects are administered on a fiscal year of April 1 to March 31. Projects completed within one fiscal year will require a final report and financial claim upon project completion. Projects completed over multiple fiscal years will require a report (interim or final) and financial claim in each fiscal year.

Planning and Consulting

Supports access to community driven culturally relevant assistance services and the development of business plans and feasibility studies that focus on food system development and expansion, increases agriculture knowledge, business development, management and planning, risk awareness, and market expansion.

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- Surveying existing agricultural and food systems activities, asset mapping, and land use
- Feasibility studies related to agricultural development options, food security planning, and/or business planning functions associated with agriculture food production and processing
- Developing business plans related to community food systems for new agriculture and/or food processing initiatives
- Developing business plans to support scaling up existing food systems and/or food processing initiatives

Cost Share

There is a cost share ratio of 100:0 (government: applicant) and an $80,000 funding cap for this activity.

Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding:
- Professional fees for consulting agencies or firms associated with conducting primary research and developing assessments, plans, studies, and reports.
- Incremental salaries, wages and benefits for extension specialists and staff working with communities
- Overhead (up to 10% of total approved eligible expenses) (e.g. internal administration, use of own materials and supplies, use of own equipment, etc.)

Training and Resource Development

Support to advance the agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sector's capacity and competitiveness by providing funding to support incremental learning activities, knowledge transfer events and resource development.

Cost Share

There is a cost share ratio of 100:0 (government: applicant) and a $10,000 funding cap for this activity.

Training

Includes sharing skills, group learning and knowledge transfer events, such as conferences and workshops, peer-to-peer learning activities, and other community-driven culturally relevant food system learning initiatives.

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to the following:

- **Peer-to-Peer Training/Learning:** Interactions/activities where community members learn from, and with, each other in both formal and informal ways.
- **One-on-one Training:** Informal interactions/activities where a participant receives one-on-one knowledge transfer, either in-person, over the phone or provided electronically from an expert/trainer/professional.
- **On-site Training:** Training that occurs at a place of business and involves more than one participant (e.g., field demonstrations, field tours).
- **Web-based Training (including webinars):** Training delivered via the internet where an instructor controls a virtual curriculum and interactions, or the learner sets their own learning pace.
- **In-Person Training**: Traditional training where participants attend a training institution or facility and engage with an instructor in a particular field.
- **Conferences/Trade Shows:** A participant attends a large-scale event off-site specifically as a knowledge transfer/training opportunity.

Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding:
- Professional speaker fees and travel accommodations
- Purchase of education and training materials
- Facility and equipment rentals
- Registration fees associated with a training event (e.g. workshop, webinar, course, etc.)
- Travel expenses directly related to participating in a training event (e.g. workshop, webinar, course, etc.)

- Overhead expenses (e.g. internal administration, use of own materials and supplies, use of own equipment, etc.), capped at 10% of total approved eligible expenses.

Ineligible Expenses – Training and Resource Development

The following expenses are not eligible for funding, in addition to the 'Ineligible Expenses – All Funding Streams' list:
- Events which are primarily related to sales or marketing opportunities
- Hospitality expenses, including food and beverages
- Sponsorship events

Resource Development

Includes the development of digital and print materials to provide accurate information and resource materials to community members.

Eligible activities may include but are not limited to the development of:
- Instructional videos
- Manuals, brochures, and factsheets
- Strategic, transition, and planning guides (e.g. communication plans, marketing plans, etc.)
- Website and social media items

Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding:
- Materials and supplies
- Professional fees and travel accommodations
- Subcontracted services related to the development, design and distribution of communication and extension materials.
- Overhead expenses (e.g. internal administration, use of own materials and supplies, use of own equipment, etc.), capped at 10% of total approved eligible expenses.

Capital Equipment and Software

Supports access to capital items required in implementing and/or scaling up food system/agriculture projects from production and processing to preservation. Funding will be used to address barriers identified in business and/or project plans. Funding may also support the adoption of new technologies into community owned infrastructure. This can include equipment purchases that support the transformation of raw products into value-added goods, enhance traditional harvesting practices, or bring new products into the market.

Cost Share

There is a cost share ratio of 50:50 (government: applicant) and a $50,000 funding cap, for this activity.

Eligible Expenses

The following expenses are eligible for funding:
- Equipment and software required to establish or scale up primary agriculture activities such as investments in greenhouse infrastructure and technology, controlled growing methods and production practices.
- Equipment and software required to establish or scale up food processing and preservation activities including establishment or expansion of existing facilities, such as:
  - mobile abattoirs
  - community kitchens
  - commercial kitchens
- Equipment and software required to revitalize or expand traditional food systems such as food harvesting, preservation, and processing, including:
  - precision agriculture
  - automation
  - new processing methods and equipment
  - customized software and machinery
- Subcontracted services for equipment delivery, installation, and demonstration.
- Overhead (up to 10% of total approved eligible expenses) (e.g. internal installation, use of own materials and supplies including personal protective equipment, use of own equipment and tools, etc.)

Requested capital equipment and software funding must be referenced within a food system or agriculture plan.

All items must be essential to the project and exclusively used for the project, to be considered eligible. Eligibility determination of multi-use items is at the discretion of the Program Administrator.

Ineligible Expenses – Capital Equipment and Software

The following expenses are ineligible for funding, in addition to the 'Ineligible Expenses – All Funding Streams' list:
- Multi-use items (e.g. freezers, drones, tools, computers, etc.) which are either not essential or not exclusively used for the project
- Vehicles and typical farm equipment (e.g. snowmobile, side-by-side, all-terrain vehicle, food truck, boat, tractor, skid-steer, etc.) and related accessories and attachments
- Any equipment used in the production or processing of seaweed, fish, and seafood

Ineligible Expenses – All Funding Streams
The following expenses are **ineligible** for funding:

- Any expense paid before the start date, or after the completion date, listed in the funding agreement.
- Any expense, including a tax, which is eligible for a rebate, credit or refund such as Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- In-kind contributions
- Any activities related to the production or processing of seaweed, fish, and seafood
- **Event-related ineligible expenses**:
  - Events which are primarily related to sales or marketing opportunities
  - Hospitality expenses, including food and beverages
  - Sponsorship events
- **Capital/equipment-related ineligible expenses**
  - Extended warranties
  - Spare parts not used as part of the project
  - Vehicles and typical farm equipment (e.g. snowmobile, side-by-side, all-terrain vehicle, food trucks, boats, tractors, skid-steers, etc.) and related accessories and attachments
  - Multi-use items (e.g. freezers, drones, tools, computers, etc.) which are either not essential or not exclusively used for the project
  - Purchase of land, buildings and facilities, associated taxes and fees (e.g., land transfer tax)
  - Expenses for office renovations
  - Any additions or upgrades to new or existing buildings and facilities, associated taxes and fees
  - Equipment or software that is leased, rented, or on a subscription where ownership is not immediately transferred to the applicant (financing equipment through the manufacturer or seller of the equipment, rather than a bank or credit union, is acceptable)

- Normal, current or ongoing maintenance expenses (e.g., repairs to existing equipment, replacing aged or damaged equipment, upgrades to existing plumbing or electrical systems)
- Consumables (fuel, clothing, footwear, etc.)
- Expenses associated with lobbying
- Any compensation to any government employee for organizing or delivering parts of the project
- Expenses related to establishing a commercial operation
- Normal operating expenses associated with carrying out business operations
- Financing charges, loan interest payments, bank fees and charges
- Any project-related activity that generates revenue during the implementation of the project
- Expenses incurred for other projects
- Any item purchased before April 1, 2026
- Invoices not issued in the applicant's name and/or payment not made by the approved applicant.
- Any expenses not required for the execution of the project
- Any other expense deemed ineligible by the program administrator

The applicant is solely responsible for all project expenses, including all ineligible expenses and any project deficits or over-runs.

Where a project is approved, no eligible expenses will be reimbursed unless a funding agreement is signed.

If work is started on a project before formal written approval of program funding is received, the applicant does so at their own risk.

All expenses must be supported by an invoice and a valid proof of payment (note: hand-written cash receipts are not an acceptable form of proof of payment). **All invoices must be dated on or after April 1, 2026**.

Funding from Government:

The applicant must adhere to the stacking limit. The stacking limit refers to the maximum level of total Canadian government funding (federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal) a successful Applicant can receive towards total approved eligible expenses of a project.

The maximum level of total government funding must not exceed:

- 100 percent of total approved eligible expenses; or
- If the Applicant is a for-profit business or organization, 75 per cent for capital items that are approved eligible expenses

Section 5 - Application Worksheet Assessment

Application Worksheets will be assessed according to the following information:

- Project description
- Project deliverables and outcomes
- Capital and financial capacity
- Management capacity
- Alignment with Indigenous objectivities and priorities, including impact on youth, women and elders
- Engagement with associated Indigenous community (including leaders and other community members)

Section 6 - How to Apply for Funding

Applicant Information Forms and Application Worksheets are available on the Manitoba Agriculture website. Go to https://www.manitoba.ca/scap/ .

Manitoba Agriculture will publish deadline dates through the department's Growing Manitoba Ag newsletter, website and social media channels.

Applicant Information Forms and Application Worksheets must be submitted to the program administrator via email at agriculture@gov.mb.ca no later than the deadline of **11:59 PM on November 4, 2025**.

Applicants must acknowledge and agree to any terms and conditions contained in the Applicant Information Form, Application Worksheet, Program Guide, and Program Terms and Conditions.

Only the applicant may sign the program application or other program documents.

In the case of corporations, partnerships and other business organizations, a designated person with legal authorization must sign the application and other program documents. The program administrator may require proof of authorization.

Applicants must comply with all provincial and federal government laws and regulations applicable to their project and to their business or organization's operations. Applicants must also accept and agree to all of the terms and conditions of the program.

Funding for projects will be subject to the appropriation of funds by the Government of Canada and the Manitoba government.

Funding amounts received from all sources must be declared on the application. Failure to disclose all financial sources for a project may nullify the application.

Definitions

Applicant: a person or entity who satisfies all the eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions and who submits an application under this program.

Contribution Agreement: the articles of agreement and annexes, as well as their amendments and the general terms and conditions applicable on the effective date of agreement.

Engagement: seeks to better engage the community to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making, or implementation.

First Nation: an Indigenous community officially recognized as an administrative unit by the federal government.

Government Employee: any full-time, regular, part-time or term individual employed by the federal or provincial government, including any special operating agency or Crown corporation.

Government Funding: any financial assistance in the form of provincial or federal grants, loans or other assistance.

Incremental Expenses: expenditures that can be directly attributed to the project outlined in the Application Worksheet and are over and above normal business operational expenses.

In-kind Contributions: non-monetary goods and/or services that are not reimbursable by the program.

Manitoba Senior Public Servant: the Clerk of the Executive Council; a deputy minister or equivalent, or an assistant deputy minister; a chairperson, president, vice-president, chief executive officer or deputy chief executive officer of a Crown agency; a person who is designated or who occupies a position that is designated under section 31.1 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Conflict of Interest Act; and includes a person who, on a temporary basis, occupies a position described here.

Minister: the Minister of Agriculture for the Manitoba government, including any person authorized to act on the minister's behalf.

Person: includes an individual, partnership, association or corporate body (entity).

Primary Producer: an individual grower, producer or rancher, partnership, corporation, co-operative or any other association of people who is actively engaged in farming.

Program Activity: a specific action under the Program, where applicants can apply for funding. Activities may have one or several focus areas.

Program Administrator: Manitoba Agriculture, or where applicable, any person engaged by the Manitoba government, to carry out administrative activities related to the program.

Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership: a five-year agricultural policy framework by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments to encourage market development, innovation and research, environmental sustainability, value added processing, improved public trust and risk management across Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-product sectors.

Terms and Conditions: the program rules that applicants accept and agree to follow, as part of the funding agreement; may be occasionally revised, altered or amended.

Appendix A – Eligible Expense Details

Expense Category	Eligible Expense Details
Facility and Equipment Rentals	Rental fee for the venue of the event and necessary equipment like audio-visual systems, tables and chairs.
Capital Equipment and Software	• Equipment and software required for the execution of the project. • Requested capital equipment and software funding must be referenced within a food system or agriculture plan • Buying used equipment is allowed as long as supported with an invoice and proof of payment. All items must be essential to the project and exclusively used for the project, to be considered eligible. Eligibility of any multi-use items is at the discretion of the Program Administrator.
Incremental Salaries, Wages and Benefits	Employee salaries, wages and benefits for hours dedicated to project execution that are over and above normal salaries, wages and benefits.
Knowledge Transfer Expenses	Expenses related to the development, design and distribution of communication and extension materials, and purchase of education training materials. Examples of Knowledge Transfer Expenses: • Manuals • Brochures • Factsheets This expense category does not cover website or social media items.
Materials and Supplies	Small value, non-consumable items necessary in the execution of the project. All items must be essential to the project and exclusively used for the project, to be considered eligible. Eligibility of any multi-use items is at the discretion of the Program Administrator.
Professional Speakers Fee and Travel Accommodation	Third party speakers justified as essential to the project and hired to deliver seminars, talks, and workshops or facilitate engagement activities. Expenses include: • Speaker and facilitators fee for service delivery • Economy airfare • Meals • Transportation (non-airfare) • Mileage (for own vehicle)

	Vehicle rental, including fuel must be supported by an invoice and proof of payment to be eligible.

Mileage rates for use of a personal vehicle will follow the General Manual of Administration. Fuel is included within the mileage rate. The current mileage rates are:
- Within Manitoba: $0.46 per kilometer.
- Outside of Manitoba: $0.56 per kilometer
- North of the 53rd Parallel: $0.504 per kilometer

Accommodation expenses are limited to a maximum of $300 per night, per room. Maximum of two (2) hotel rooms per activity. |
| Registration Fee | Registration fee for a training event. |
| Training Participant Travel | Travel and accommodation costs for attending the training event. This includes economy airfare, mileage or car rental and lodging expenses.

The program may cover up to two (2) economy airfares.

Vehicle rental, including fuel must be supported by an invoice and proof of payment to be eligible.

Mileage rates for use of a personal vehicle will follow the General Manual of Administration. Fuel is included within the mileage rate. The current mileage rates are:
- Within Manitoba: $0.46 per kilometer.
- Outside of Manitoba: $0.56 per kilometer
- North of the 53rd Parallel: $0.504 per kilometer

Accommodation expenses are limited to a maximum of $300 per night, per room. |
| Professional Fees | Outside consultants justified as essential to the project but must be hired to facilitate project implementation. |
| Subcontracted Services | - Custom work
- Custom labor
- Website and social media services

This excludes building and facility upgrades. |
| Overhead | Overhead covers up to 10% of the total approved expenses.

Overhead may include:
- Administrative wages and benefits
- Use of own office supplies
- Use of own office equipment |