

Funding List for Agriculture and Food Sustainability Assurance Initiatives Program

Eligible Activities

One or more of the following activities related to the development and/or enhancement of sustainability certification or assurance systems are eligible for funding and may be included in an Application:

- a) benchmarking studies including life cycle analyses, environmental footprinting and gap analyses;
- b) short-term funding for operating costs related to pilot studies, audits for pilots;
- c) development of governance;
- d) administrative support directly associated with the Project;
- e) promotion of label and certification standard associated with the sustainability assurance initiative;
- f) support for industry organizations to develop sustainability assurance programs; and
- g) support communication efforts regarding consumer perceptions, verification standards, BMPs and performance metrics.

Ineligible Activities

The following activities are not eligible under the Program and must not be included in an Application:

- a) audits for existing systems;
- b) audits not related to pilot projects;
- c) research not directly related to the development of an assurance program; and
- d) any other activity deemed by the Minister to be ineligible.

Requirements for Eligible Activities

All eligible activities completed under the Program must:

- a) address the entire system associated with a sustainability assurance initiative; and
- b) be consistent with the Program Guiding Principles stated on the Program application form.

Eligible Expenses

The following expenses which are incurred for eligible activities may be included in an Application:

- a) salary and benefits for staff whose primary responsibility is to ensure success of the Project;
- b) reasonable hosting and travel-related expenses within Alberta, as set out in the Alberta Canadian Agricultural Partnership Travel Expense Policy posted on the Alberta Canadian Agricultural Partnership website, as may be amended;
- c) speaker fees for courses, workshops, conferences or seminars related to industry sustainability assurance systems;
- d) costs for the development and delivery of eligible sustainability assurance system education activities;

- e) development and distribution costs to of print, electronic, and audiovisual informational resources aimed at educating farmers about industry sustainability assurance systems;
- f) the cost of development and implementation of sustainability assurance systems; and
- g) any other expense related to the development or enhancement of sustainability certification or assurance systems.

Ineligible Expenses

Expenses that are not eligible for payment under the Program and which must not be included in an Application include:

- (a) manpower expenses for existing staff not related to the Project;
- (b) expenses for capital items;
- (c) funding for core organizational activities;
- (d) funding for marketing commodities, products, services and/or organizations;
- (e) product development costs;
- (f) brand labeling costs for private companies;
- (g) farmer/processor costs associated with complying with sustainability assurance programs;
- (h) expenses for travel outside of Alberta;
- (i) GST; and
- (j) any other expense deemed ineligible by the Minister.

Program Cost Share for Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses shall be cost-shared at 50% grant and 50% Applicant.

Maximum Project Funding

The maximum funding that may be approved for Projects is \$250,000 per Applicant in each Fiscal Year of the Program Term.