

*Committed to developing your sustainable practices.*

# JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE!



DO YOU WANT TO **REDUCE THE  
CARBON FOOTPRINT** OF YOUR  
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES?

LOOKING FOR  
**SUPPORT?**

**Apply now!**  
*Fill out the online form*

# BACKGROUND

Ecocert Canada and the Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) have set up a **specific project** for **organic-certified** farms as part of the Government of Canada's **Agricultural Climate Solutions** program, under the **On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF)**, delivered by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The goal of the **On-Farm Climate Action Fund** is to help farmers adopt **beneficial management practices (BMPs)** to **store carbon and reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** in three specific areas: nitrogen management, use of cover crops and pasture rotation.

The program aims to provide Canadian farmers with **technical and financial support** to implement on-farm actions that will accelerate the effect of climate change measures on net GHG emissions.



Ecocert Canada is one of 12 organizations selected to contribute to this program, and is authorized to support actions and distribute funds that target the following categories:

**1**

## **NITROGEN MANAGEMENT**

**2**

## **COVER CROPS**





# OUR CONTRIBUTION



Under this program, Ecocert Canada, in partnership with COTA, has secured \$4.5 million in funding to help **200 certified organic farmers in Canada** adopt BMPs that reduce GHG emissions through cover crops and nitrogen management.

Led by COTA, a selection committee will ensure the farms' admission to the program, with impartiality and adherence to program requirements.

**The goal** of this program is for **most of the funds to serve as direct financial assistance to farmers**, to increase the adoption and implementation of on-farm BMPs.

**The project will take place over two years:**

From April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023  
From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024

## THE PROJECT HAS TWO COMPONENTS:

1. Support for the adoption and implementation of beneficial management practices (BMPs) for nitrogen management and/or cover crops.
2. Farmer engagement and knowledge transfer activities (training).

REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT  
ALSO MEANS SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY  
AND SOIL HEALTH!

## THE 200 SELECTED FARMS WILL RECEIVE:

- A **report of their greenhouse gas emissions** to determine the impact of the BMPs on their GHG emissions;
- **Tailored training on beneficial management practices;**
- **Financial compensation for eligible activities** (up to a maximum of 85% of costs, within the annual budget allocation);
- An invitation to **knowledge-transfer activities (training).**



# PROGRAM DETAILS

**Funding for certain expenses** is available for the implementation of new beneficial management practices or increases in acreage on which BMPs are implemented.

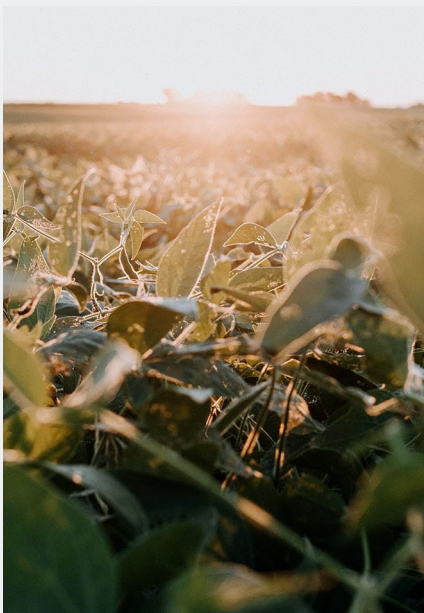
In order to meet program objectives, farm businesses should seek the **advice of a professional agronomist, agrologist or Certified Crop Advisor** to identify the optimal BMPs for them, given their region and type of farm.

**THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGES 8 AND 9 OF THIS DOCUMENT.**



## REQUIREMENTS OF THE SELECTED FARMS

- The farm is required to make a minimum contribution of 15%. This contribution may be in cash or in kind.
- The farms must cooperate to provide the information needed for statistical, report or information purposes.
- Total direct support per farm cannot exceed \$75,000 over the life of the program.
- Ecocert will conduct two site visits (one per year).
- The farms agree not to receive funding for the same BMPs from other recipient organizations that are redistributing federal funds under this program.
- The farms must consent to Ecocert sharing their information with OFCAF and COTA.
- The BMPs integrated into the farm under this program must be a new practice, an improvement on current practices or implemented on new acreage.
- The BMPs must be recommended by a professional agronomist, agrologist or Certified Crop Advisor. The goal is for the farm to receive expert advice in order to identify the most useful BMP(s) for the region and the type of farm.
- GHG emission reductions generated during the project period shall not be used in any current or future offset program.



# CRITERIA

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- The applicant must be a legal entity.
- The farm must hold organic certification under the Canada Organic Regime (COR) issued by a certification body accredited by the CFIA.
- Eligible activity:  
In-field crop production.
- Eligible provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia.

## SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Adherence to the amounts planned by region/year.
- Ten percent of the project fund is reserved for underrepresented groups.
- The first 400 completed applications received (allotted by provincial thresholds) will be submitted to the evaluation committee.

## APPLICATIONS WILL BE EVALUATED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Farm's project and eligibility to the program.
- Farm's motivation and commitment to adopt the BMPs.
- Potential impacts of the project's GHG reductions.



## Want to apply? *Fill out the online form*

The deadline to submit your application is **July 15, 2022**, at 11:45 p.m. EST (UTC-4).  
**For any additional information: [ofca@ecocert.com](mailto:ofca@ecocert.com)**

### SOURCES :

Agricultural Climate Solutions – On-Farm Climate Action Fund :  
<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricultural-climate-solutions-farm-climate-action-fund-0>



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# ABOUT ECOCERT

## Working towards sustainable practices

Ecocert Canada, a subsidiary of the Ecocert group, assists, and continues to assist, stakeholders in the implementation and promotion of sustainable practices through certification, consulting and training services.

Committed for over 25 years to organic agriculture, Ecocert has become the benchmark for organic certification in Canada.

With more than 100 employees and its 4 offices across the country, Ecocert Canada offers first-rate service in French and English to many sectors:



AGRI-FOOD



TEXTILES



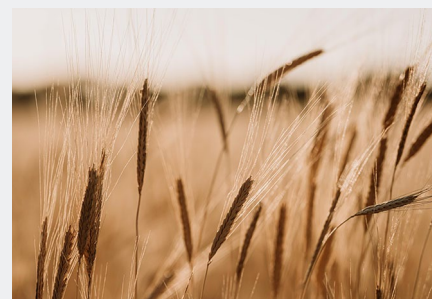
HOMECARE



FORESTRY



COSMETICS



## WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

We strive to enable production processes that respect the environment, better management of available energy and natural resources (water, air, soil fertility), are more socially responsible and have better product quality and safety. All of these elements are essential to address today's economic, social and environmental challenges in order to build tomorrow's world.

We work closely with you to develop tailor-made solutions that match your goals and values.

[www.ecocert.com](http://www.ecocert.com)



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# ABOUT COTA



The Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) is the membership-based association for organic agriculture, aquaculture and products in Canada. Its members include growers, processors, certifiers, farmers' associations, distributors, importers, exporters, consultants, retailers and all points along the organic value chain.

COTA encourages farmers to convert to more sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

With the expertise to achieve these goals, COTA lays out a clear path for farmers. Since Canada's organic sector continues to grow, COTA believes that it is key to develop and adopt innovative farming practices that follow the principles of organic agriculture, not only to expand the organic sector, but also to enable Canadian agriculture to meet the environmental challenges of our time while also contributing to jobs and economic growth.



[www.canada-organic.ca](http://www.canada-organic.ca)



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Agroalimentaire Canada

## Schedule

# ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs are those costs directly related to the Project as set out in this Schedule, and which, in the opinion of Canada, are reasonably and properly incurred.

## NITROGEN MANAGEMENT

Support the adoption and on-farm implementation of <b>nitrogen management</b> BMPs (as recommended by a professional agronomist, agrologist, or Certified Crop Advisor*)	
ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS, LIMITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular fertilizer and inhibitor price difference;</li> <li>Plan, assessment, design work and consultancy fees and cost of other agronomic support/technical training;</li> <li>Soil testing and soil mapping costs;</li> <li>Offsetting higher cost of synthetic fertilizer substitutes (manure, compost, digestates), where applicable and higher prices of fertilizer in the spring if applicable;</li> <li>Seed and planting costs to increase legumes in rotation;</li> <li>Cost of fertilizer application equipment and equipment upgrades to allow for banding, side dressing and injection;</li> <li>If applicable, costs for using equipment and the associated fuel and labour required for the additional fertilizer application;</li> <li>If transitioning to manure, costs associated with spreading, using hoses or equipment for shallow incorporation (to avoid volatilisation).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs related to the management of nutrients other than nitrogen are not eligible;</li> <li>In the case of transitioning to better manure management, only activities that improve manure incorporation in the soil are eligible. Injection is preferred; however, if equipment for this is not available, other methods of incorporation as soon as possible after application are also eligible);</li> <li>Determination of costs for using equipment and the associated fuel and labour required for the additional fertilizer application needs to be in line with local custom rates;</li> <li>BMPs applied to a specific farm area prior to the Program are ineligible. Note, however, that an expansion of a BMP application on a farm area where these BMPs have not been previously been employed is eligible.</li> </ul>

\* Other adequately trained personnel working with the Recipient (ECOCERT) can prepare advice for the Ultimate Recipient, however, this would still need validation by an agronomist, agrologist, or Certified Crop Advisor.





## Schedule

# ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs are those costs directly related to the Project as set out in this Schedule, and which, in the opinion of Canada, are reasonably and properly incurred.

## COVER CROPS

Support the adoption and on-farm implementation of <b>cover cropping</b> BMPs (as recommended by a professional agronomist, agrologist, or Certified Crop Advisor*)	
ELIGIBLE COSTS	INELIGIBLE COSTS, LIMITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs related to services provided by agronomists, Certified Crop Advisors, or agrologists;</li> <li>Seed costs or per acre payments with regionally- and commodity-appropriate seed as recommended by a professional agronomist, agrologist, or Certified Crop Advisor;</li> <li>Cost of planting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costs for cover crops where growing and leaving cover crops undisturbed over-winter is not new and has been a routine practice used by the farmer;</li> <li>Costs related to mechanical or chemical termination of the cover crop;</li> <li>Fertilizer and crop protection costs;</li> <li>Costs related to rejuvenation of existing forages, pastures or hay land;</li> <li>BMPs applied to a specific farm area prior to the Program are ineligible. Note, however, that an expansion of a BMP application on a farm area where these BMPs have not been previously been employed is eligible.</li> </ul>

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