



# Perennial Crop Renewal Program

## PROGRAM GUIDE 2023/24



The Perennial Crop Renewal Program supports producers to remove unproductive, diseased, or unmarketable cultivars and to adopt growing systems that are better suited to environmental conditions and market demands.

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We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

If there is a discrepancy between this document and the information found on [iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://iafbc.ca/pcrp), the website takes precedence.



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Perennial Crop Renewal Program is an up to \$15M program funded by the Government of BC through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) and delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF).

### Program Background

The Perennial Crop Renewal Program (PCRP) is a multi-commodity program that provides cost-shared funding that will be available to BC-based perennial crop producers to remove unproductive, diseased, or unmarketable cultivars; and to adopt growing systems that are better suited to environmental conditions and market demands, based on sector-specific opportunities. Funding will also be available to perennial crop associations and stakeholder groups to conduct sector development projects that evaluate or define agronomic and market opportunities.

### Program Goal

To increase the competitiveness and resiliency of the BC agri-food economy in domestic and global markets.

### Program Objectives

- To support farmers to adapt to environmental and market conditions by diversifying, renovating, or expanding production.
- To support agricultural sectors to evaluate and define agronomic and market opportunities.



## APPROACH

Applications will be accepted on a continual basis until funding is fully committed. While applications will be continually received, they will be reviewed in batches at set review dates against the [priorities](#) set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The first date for review is May 25, 2023. IAF will complete adjudication and notification of funding within two months of an application review deadline.

### Program Structure

Funding is available to industry through three funding streams:

| Funding Stream                              | Project Funding Limits               | Cost Share Ratio                     |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Stream 1: Sector Development Projects       | Max \$100K                           | 100%                                 |
| Stream 2: Removal Projects                  | Max \$100K                           | Not Applicable (\$5,000 per Acre)    |
| Stream 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects | See <a href="#">Stream 3 guide</a> . | See <a href="#">Stream 3 guide</a> . |

Funding limits for planting projects will be sector-specific based on average costs but will not exceed the amounts listed above. Project length and annualized funding limits per project vary by stream. Specific details on eligible costs and reimbursement are provided in the sections to follow. If applying for funding to more than one stream under the PCRP, a separate application must be submitted to each stream.

Stacking of funds from other government programs is allowed up to 100%, provided other funds are not from select programs delivered by IAF, including (but not limited to): Food Processing Growth Fund, Farmed Animal Disease Program. For a complete list of programs not eligible for stacking, visit [www.iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://www.iafbc.ca/pcrp).

**Note:** if there is a discrepancy between this program guide and [www.iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://www.iafbc.ca/pcrp), the website will take precedence.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### STREAM 1: Sector Development Projects

To be considered eligible for this stream, an applicant must be located in the Province of British Columbia and must be a **perennial food crop industry association or sector stakeholder group**. Note: When not represented by an industry association, perennial crop producer groups are eligible to apply to Stream 1.

#### Eligible Activities

- Fees for third-party consultants to complete market opportunity and competitiveness assessments, feasibility studies or climate suitability studies
- Applied research projects that evaluate innovative growing systems, or existing cultivars in new climatic zones
- Research projects that evaluate costs of production and net return to growers that have participated in the Stream 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects Stream.

#### Funding Details

**Maximum of \$100,000** per sector per year

**Cost-shared Ratio: 100%** of cost for third party consultant or researcher

**Funding Reimbursement:** 30% upon signing Contribution Agreement; 70% when project and final report complete.

Projects can be multi-year, however, activities cannot start until an applicant receives a project approval. Multi-year projects cannot exceed the funding limit above. All projects must be completed by February 1, 2026. Successful perennial food crop industry associations or sector stakeholder groups will be required to submit an interim and final reports to verify the workplan was implemented and deliverables complete.

All opportunity assessment project reports need to include:

- Acreage or volume required to satisfy market demand
- Specific cultivars, fruit/nut quality, harvest timing or suitability by harvest method and climate
- Cost estimate of nursery plants for selected cultivars
- Cost estimate of trellis system(s)
- Minimum operation size by market channel to be profitable.
- Potential barriers to replanting or implementing recommendations
- Research needs to address gaps in knowledge

### **Ineligible Applicants**

- For-profit entities; individual perennial food crop producers
- Stakeholder groups not affiliated with perennial food crop producers.

### **Ineligible Activities and Expenses**

- Applied research projects for upstream breeding activities (germplasm development) or seedling trials.

## STREAM 2: Removal Projects

To be considered eligible for this stream, an **applicant must be** located in the Province of British Columbia and must be a **perennial food crop producer**. The applicant must be the owner or lessee of the land.

Note: The owner (and in the case of leased property, both owner and lessee) of the land must agree to plant removal.

### Eligible Activities

- Remove unproductive, diseased or unmarketable perennial crops, including field infrastructure (i.e. posts, wires, irrigation) from commercial farms located in BC;
- Planting of a cover crop is recommended if fields are not going to be replanted in the following Spring;
- Minimum 1 acre; Maximum 20 acres

### Funding Details

Funding for removal projects cannot exceed a set value of \$5K per acre per year regardless of crop type.

**Maximum of \$100,000** per farm business per year

**Project Funding:** Successful applicants are eligible to receive \$5,000 per acre of removal, up to a maximum of 20 acres (\$100,000).

**Funding Reimbursement:** 30% upon signing Contribution Agreement; 70% when final report and field inspection complete.

Applications must be received at least two months before planned removal date. Project activities must be completed within a 12-month period and before March 31, 2025, to accommodate crop cover seeding and field inspections.

### Field Inspections

Applicants applying for funding under **Stream 2: Removal Projects** will be required to complete a field inspection. Final payments will be based on the outcome of the inspection and assessment of the project's progress. Specifically, inspectors will:

- Ensure proposed crop destruction method was implemented
- Verify proper disposal or re-use of supporting infrastructure
- Take photos

### Ineligible Applicants

- Annual crop producers, forage producers, non-commercial producers, farmland located outside of BC;

## Ineligible Activities and Expenses

- Removal of plantings that are less than 2 years old;
- Removal of perennial crops other than hazelnut, raspberry, blueberry, cranberry, tree fruit or wine grapes

## STREAM 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects

See [Stream 3 guide](#).



## APPLICATIONS

### Important Program Dates

Applications will be accepted through the [IAF Client Portal](#) starting on April 28, 2023, on an ongoing basis. Applications will be reviewed in batches at the review dates listed below and funded on based on the priorities provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food ([see Appendices](#)) and available funds.

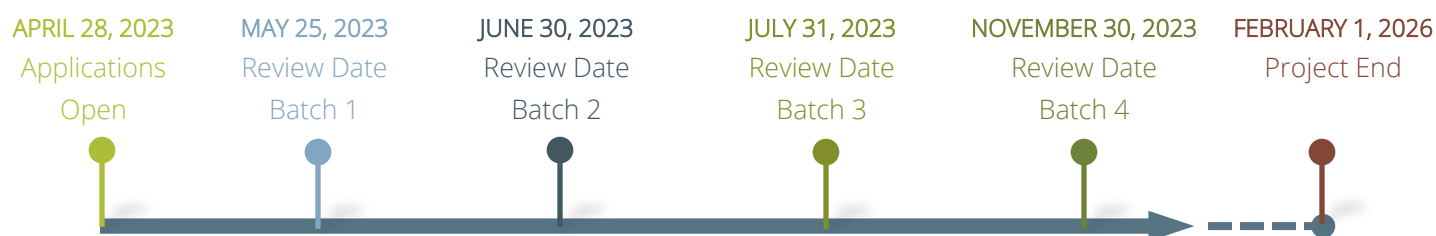
The **review dates** for each application batch for the 2023/24 fiscal year is as follows:

- May 25, 2023\*
- June 30, 2023
- July 31, 2023
  - July 31 is the last review date for Stream 3 - hazelnut plantings that will occur in 2023. Applicants may still apply to Stream 3 after this date for planting in 2024 / 2025.
- November 30, 2023

Additional dates will be added as required, pending available funds. See [iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://iafbc.ca/pcrp) for additional dates as they become available.

\*Note: If a high volume of applications is received prior to May 25, IAF will review applications on an earlier date to expedite funding. This date will be communicated via the Perennial Crop Renewal Program Newsletter (sign up at [iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://iafbc.ca/pcrp)) and on [iafbc.ca/pcrp](http://iafbc.ca/pcrp).

**Project Start Date:** Projects will start approx. two months after application received. The date will be confirmed at application approval.



## Application Process

Applicants can apply through the [IAF Client Portal](#). The application process and required documents are specific to each funding stream. The application process will generally consist of:

### Create an Account

- Create a personal profile (name and email)

### Organization Registration

- Organization information, including:
  - o Name
  - o Contact details
  - o type of organization
  - o BC ID / CRA numbers
  - o primary contact
  - o and more

### Applying to PCRP for Project Funding

Select the Perennial Crop Renewal Program funding stream (S1/S2/S3) from Funding Opportunities, and provide:

- Farm / property location / acreage
- Lessee / Ownership information
- Select sector group / region
- Select project start & end dates
- Select project activities from the eligible activities list or briefly describe activities
- Describe project workplan, including timelines
- Identify who will lead/undertake the project, including list of the names and qualifications of the people who will be carrying out the project activities.
- List project expenses and project funding required (streams 1 and 3 only)
- List any communications/information sharing activities or performance measures (if applicable)

Applicants may be required to provide supplementary materials in support of their application (e.g. budget, map, purchase order, confirmation of ownership/lease, workplan). These documents can be uploaded through the [IAF Client Portal](#) as attachments to the application.

IAF staff are available to answer questions regarding eligible activities, costs and/or the application process. IAF may also contact applicants for additional information or clarification to assess or strengthen their application.

Applicants can contact [pcrp@iafbc.ca](mailto:pcrp@iafbc.ca) with any questions about the program or to receive support in developing their application.

Applicants are encouraged to include only activities they are confident will be completed on time and within budget limits. Applications must be received at least two (2) months before the planned project start date.

## Review and Adjudication

IAF will accept applications on a continuous basis with review and adjudication in batches based on the review dates noted. All applications received by the batch intake date will be reviewed by IAF for eligibility and completeness. Applications that meet program eligibility requirements will be scored and ranked based on the pre-set priorities and evaluation criteria for the application intake as provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food ([see Appendices](#)).

Eligible applications received through **Stream 1: Sector Development Projects** and **Stream 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects** will be reviewed by a professional agrologist/technical expert to provide funding recommendations. Applications that best align with the prioritization and evaluation criteria will be offered funding first. Applications will be considered in batches until all available funding is committed.

Applications that are not successful will not be brought forward to the next review batch and applicants will need to re-apply for future consideration. All adjudication decisions are final.



## NOTIFICATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

### Funding Notifications and Contracts

If the project is approved, IAF will inform the applicant of the details of the decision and any associated terms and conditions. The applicant then enters into an agreement with IAF which outlines the obligations of each party.

Funding is application and project-specific and must be used for the approved project and related expenses. Funds are non-transferable.

Project activities requiring financial resources cannot commence until the contribution agreement has been signed by both the applicant and IAF.

Projects funded in 2023 may begin on or after July 25, 2023, and must be completed according to the stream specific project timelines. No retroactive project reimbursements are eligible, except for Stream 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects, which are eligible to submit back dated receipts (i.e. nursery plant order) up to one year prior to approval, if the expense has not previously been cost-shared.

If the project is not approved, the applicant will receive a written response from IAF.

### Funding Acknowledgements

This program is funded by the Government of BC, as such acknowledgement of funding is required when publicly communicating about a project and/or funding. To ensure appropriate acknowledgement, all communications and marketing materials, including public announcements or social media posts, must be pre-approved by the IAF Communications Team. Materials can be submitted via the IAF Client Portal.

## Reporting Requirements

Successful applicants must complete a final report or field inspection (if applicable) prior to receiving final payment from the program and may be required to submit interim activity and financial reporting. All required reports must be filled out and submitted to IAF to be considered for funding reimbursement. It is important reports are submitted on time and with all required information. Please retain all invoices and receipts, you may be asked to submit some or all receipt/invoices following a review of your report(s) by the IAF Team. Expenses for Streams 1 and 3 will be reimbursed based on audited receipts, financial report and the approved project budget. All reporting will be completed via the IAF Client Portal.

## Changes to Contracted Projects

If you are not able to complete your project according to the approved workplan, please inform the IAF Team as soon as possible using the IAF Client Portal.

April 16, 2023

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: 2023/24 Prioritization Framework

| Stream                                                                                                                                    | Project type                                                                                                      | Ranking |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Stream 1: Sector Development Projects</b><br>Support sector level projects that evaluate or define agronomic and market opportunities. | Market opportunity, competitiveness assessments and feasibility studies or climate change resiliency studies.     | 1A      |
|                                                                                                                                           | Applied research projects that evaluate, innovative growing systems, or existing cultivars in new climatic zones. | 1B      |
|                                                                                                                                           | Research projects that evaluate costs of production and net return to growers that have participated in Stream 3. | 1C      |
| <b>Stream 2: Removal Projects</b><br>Support producers to remove unproductive, diseased, or unmarketable cultivars.                       | Removal of unproductive, diseased, or unmarketable perennial crops.                                               | 1A      |

## Appendix 2: Evaluation Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on a set of pre-determined criteria. The following are examples of evaluation criteria and considerations that will be used to score each application:

### Stream 1: Sector Development Projects Evaluation Criteria

- Scope of Opportunity Assessment
- Quality of Contractor
- Quality of workplan
- Knowledge Transfer
- Quality of proposal (strength and quality of application)

### Stream 2: Removal Projects Evaluation Criteria

- Rationale for crop removal
- Crop destruction method (best practices and in compliance)
- Proper disposal of supporting infrastructure
- Long term land use or ownership plan will ensure land is kept in agricultural production
- Quality of removal proposal (strength and quality of application)

### Stream 3: Sector-Specific Planting Projects Evaluation Criteria

- Applicant experience growing crop on a commercial scale
- Applicant experience growing this crop for target market
- Applicant experience growing perennial crops on a commercial scale
- Likelihood of horticultural success of the proposed planting
- Variety has traits suitable for intended market
- Likelihood of market success
- Quality of replant plan (strength and quality of application)